

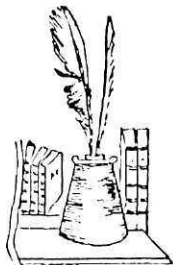
Abraham Clark

SIGNER OF THE
DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE

COMPILED, EDITED, AND ANNOTATED BY

Ann Clark Hart

I



Littera scripta manet

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, U. S. A.

THE PIONEER PRESS

1923

Abraham Clark

ABRA. CLARK.



34

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Ann Clark Hart

TO THE GRANDCHILDREN OF
WILLIAM SQUIRE CLARK

A CALIFORNIA PIONEER
WHO NAMED CLARK'S POINT
AND THERE BUILT, IN THE
YEAR 1847, THE FIRST
WHARF IN THE BAY
OF SAN FRANCISCO

Gift from Mrs. Clark
5/25-

Prefatory

TOO LITTLE is known of the lives of the fifty-six earnest patriots who, at the risk of life and liberty, signed their names to the Declaration of Independence, each with the knowledge that for this act he might be hanged. The coming sesqui-centennial celebration of the signing, to be held in Philadelphia in 1926, will no doubt arouse public interest (too long dormant) in the lives of the Signers, and will tend to give to Abraham Clark and to all the members of the Continental Congress the place in history which their courage earned them.

With an insatiable love for work, Abraham Clark devoted himself, heart and soul, during the latter half of his busy life, to the cause of liberty—personal liberty, freedom from unjust taxation, liberty of speech and pen. With a sublime sacrifice of his own personal interests, he struggled for the public weal; his goal was good government; he planned and built good roads; he was tireless in his labors for his fellow-man—as witness his efforts on behalf of the American soldiers in British dungeons; his energy in procuring shoes and clothing for the army in the field; his espousal of the cause of Vermont, a small and weak colony, but a valiant one.

It is a notable fact in the public life of Abraham Clark that it was he who, on Wednesday, July 2, 1788, made the motion in Congress by which the Constitution of the United States, framed by the Federal Convention in Philadelphia, was put into operation.

The letters of Abraham Clark are not printed here, but will appear, with notes, in a later volume, in which his public life will be more fully set forth. The present sketch is largely devoted to genealogical details, and to the accumulation of materials from which history might be drawn at some later date.

PREFATORY

The wills of the family connections are here printed in full because they contain facts regarding kinships and boundary lines which render them of value genealogically. The spelling and punctuation have been followed, and names are given exactly as they appear in the old documents. "Hatfield" is sometimes spelled "Hetfield" by members of the same family; "Squire" is sometimes "Squier," and occasionally "Squires"; "Morse" seems to be another form of "Morss." Judge Thomas Clark spelled the name of his "beloved son Abraham" with a final "e"; but the Signer invariably signed his name "Clark."

Dr. Worthington C. Ford, well known for his "Writings of George Washington," and other historical works, has written us: "I am glad you are undertaking the work, because I knew enough of the Continental Congress, while preparing the Journals for publication, to realize that Abraham Clark was a fine character."

Thanks are due to those who have helped us in securing facts and records.

The librarians of three great libraries have kindly given their personal attention to our requests for MSS.: Herbert Putnam, of the Library of Congress; William C. Lane, of Harvard College Library; H. M. Lydenberg, of the New York Public Library.

Edmund C. Burnett, editor of "Letters of Members of the Continental Congress," has sent us many valuable memoranda.

From the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and from Haverford College, Pennsylvania, copies of numerous interesting MSS. have been secured.

Acknowledgment is also due to the following:

Milton J. Ferguson, Librarian of the California State Library.

Robert Rea, Librarian of the San Francisco Municipal Library.

George Watson Cole, Librarian of the Henry E. Huntington Library, San Gabriel, California.

John C. Fitzpatrick, A. M., Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

PREFATORY

Miss Belle da Costa Greene, Director of the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York City.

Mrs. Laura Steffens Suggett, Librarian of the Sutro Library, San Francisco.

Miss Mabel R. Gillis, Assistant Librarian, California State Library.

Mr. George W. Thomas, Cranford, New Jersey.

Mr. Thomas F. Martin, Secretary of State, Trenton, New Jersey.

Mr. Henry M. James, Hudson, New York.

Mrs. Elizabeth D. Harbaugh, Piqua, Ohio.

Mr. Louis Bamberger, Newark, New Jersey.

Mr. Howard L. Hughes, Librarian, Trenton, New Jersey.

My husband, Jerome A. Hart, has given much of his time to reading the MSS. and proofsheets, and has taken general charge of putting the book through the press.

A. C. H.

San Francisco, May 26, 1923.

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Home Life of the Signer

THE history of the Abraham Clark family in New Jersey begins with Richard Clark, shipwright, who was living in Southold, Long Island, in 1675, and who removed to Elizabethtown, New Jersey, about 1678, with his wife Elizabeth, his daughter Elizabeth, and five sons. Two more sons were born to him in Elizabethtown, Thomas and Benjamin.

Thomas Clark, the son of Richard, married Hannah, and they had four sons, the eldest of whom, Thomas, was born in 1701. This Thomas Clark was the father of Abraham Clark, one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, who in his youth was Clerk of the Colonial Assembly; was later High Sheriff of Essex County under the Crown; was chosen to the Provincial Congress in 1775; was elected eight times to a seat in the Continental Congress; was a delegate to the Annapolis Convention in 1786; was a representative of his State in the Convention which framed the Federal Constitution in 1787; was a member of the Second Congress and the Third Congress of the United States.

On July 4, 1776, Abraham Clark wrote from Philadelphia to his home people: "Our Congress has

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resolved to declare the United Colonies Free and Independent States. A Declaration for this Purpose I expect will this day pass Congress. . . . Our Congress is an august Assembly—and can they support the Declaration now on the Anvil, they will be the greatest Assembly on Earth.” When he penned these lines Abraham Clark had already signed the Declaration of Independence.

Aware of the risk this step involved, he goes on to say: “We can die but once. . . . We are now embarked on a most tempestuous sea. . . . It is gone so far that we must now be a free independent State or a Conquered Country.”

Throughout the dark days of his country’s struggle for independence Abraham Clark time after time returned to his seat in Congress, for patriotism was a dominant trait in the character of this public-spirited surveyor-farmer.

The events in the life of Abraham Clark may be briefly summarized from Sanderson’s “Lives of the Signers”:

Abraham Clark was born February 15, 1726. He was the only child of Alderman Thomas Clark, who inherited his farm in the borough of Elizabeth, New Jersey, from his father and his grandfather. The farm was located on the Upper, or Eastern road, about midway between Rahway and Elizabeth. It was there Abraham Clark spent the early years of his life. He received only a fair education in the English branches. Quite early he developed a fondness for mathematics, which he turned to practical use by becoming a surveyor. Constitutionally unfitted for the heavy work about the farm, he devoted his time as he grew older to the study of law. This, coupled with his practical knowledge of surveying, led to his devoting special attention to all questions of boundary lines and the disputes of contiguous

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owners. Conveyancing was the next step, and he soon came to be known as the "Poor Man's Counsellor." He was called in frequently as arbitrator in disputes over land titles and boundaries, and he frequently served in the settlement of undivided commons. Under the royal dominion he became Clerk of the Colonial Assembly and was subsequently appointed High Sheriff of Essex County.

When it became necessary, in 1776, for New Jersey to unite with the other colonies in measures supporting the rights and liberties of the American people, Abraham Clark was appointed, with John Hart, Francis Hopkinson, Richard Stockton, and John Witherspoon, as a delegate to the Continental Congress. His industry and integrity, coupled with his clear-headed views on political topics, made him a leader in that notable assembly of earnest patriots. During the next twelve years he was elected eight times as a representative from New Jersey to a seat in the Continental Congress.

That Abraham Clark was a citizen of stern integrity is shown by the enemies he made. When the country's treasury was practically bankrupt a proposition for "commutation of pay" in favor of the officers of the Continental Army was vigorously advocated by them. Abraham Clark so strongly opposed it that he made enemies of practically all the Continental Army officers. He did not flinch, however, but strongly maintained that all citizens had suffered during the Revolutionary struggle, civilians as well as army officers, and that all should be content with the victory achieved instead of demanding individual financial gain.

He was also considered an enemy by the members of the bar, who held him responsible for an act regulating and curtailing the fees of attorneys practising in the New Jersey law courts. This act was stigmatized under the name "Clark's Law," and as he was a member of the State Legislature during the period between 1784 and 1787 when he was not a member of Congress, attorneys held him rather than the legislature responsible for this act.

Thus the members of the bar and the Continental Army officers—powerful elements in the citizenry—were his enemies. The fact, however, that he was elected again to Congress in 1787 shows that his enemies did not prevail against him.

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He also encountered popular ill-will through his stubborn conscientiousness when he opposed the unlimited issue of paper currency, then popular in all the colonies. He struggled against this mania unsuccessfully, even speaking against it in heated mass-meetings where his friends were obliged to surround him to shield him from personal danger. But the public had its will and issued the continental currency, of which the forlorn and melancholy ending is now known to all.

Abraham Clark was one of the earliest of our statesmen to be struck by the grave danger which threatened, of the Colonial Federation falling apart. The hostile acts of New York toward New Jersey, in levying dues on New Jersey's commerce, led him to remonstrate with Governor Clinton of New York. He continued systematically to urge measures for a more binding union and more equitable constitution between the States. His activity in this regard led to his being appointed a member of the convention which framed the Federal Constitution. He was, however, prevented by ill-health from joining in its deliberations.

His opposition to the original draft before the adoption of Amendments led his enemies, including the hostile attorneys and Continental Army officers, to accuse him of anti-Federalism, and in the election of representatives to the First Federal Congress he was not included. However, in the winter of 1789-90 he was appointed a commissioner to settle the accounts of his own State with the General Government, which office he held until he was elected a Representative in the National Congress.

In 1794 he supported the resolutions submitted by James Madison concerning commerce which were in the line of retaliation on Great Britain for her restrictions on American trade. Congress at that time showed much irritation with Great Britain's attacks on our commercial rights, and another war with her seemed to be imminent. Congress was considering the sequestration of all debts due to British citizens for the purpose of indemnifying American citizens for the damage done to their shipping by British cruisers.

Abraham Clark introduced a resolution suspending all intercourse with Great Britain until she had fully compensated American citizens for all damage done to them by British vessels of war and until the Western posts were delivered up by her to

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the United States. Heated debates on this and kindred subjects took place continually, until President Washington nominated John Jay, on April 16, 1794, as envoy to Great Britain for the purpose of adjusting these difficulties. But even this appointment by General Washington did not defeat the Abraham Clark resolution in the House, where it was carried by a large majority, so strong was the feeling. It was lost in the Senate by a single vote—that of Vice-President Adams, which saved the day for the administration. (From "Lives of the Signers," 9 volumes; Philadelphia, 1820; John Sanderson, 1786-1844; and Robert Waln, 1794-1825.)

In the perspective of history it is probable that President Washington's course was the wisest for the struggling colonies, yet one can not help but admire the fierce patriotism of New Jersey's indomitable representative, Abraham Clark.

The author of the "Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution," B. J. Lossing, has given us a graphic sketch of Abraham Clark which is both personal and sympathetic. The following account is summarized from his book, "Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of American Independence":

Abraham Clark was born at Elizabethtown, in New Jersey, on the fifteenth of February, 1726. He was brought up in the employment of his father, a farmer. He was quite studious, but his early education was considerably neglected. In fact, being an only child he was, as is too frequently the case, petted, and allowed to follow the guide of his inclinations; and hence his education might be termed miscellaneous.

A slender constitution warned him that he could not pursue successfully the rough labor of a farm, and he turned his attention to the study of mathematics and of law. He became a good practical surveyor; and though he never went through a course of legal study, yet he transacted a good deal of law business in Elizabethtown for a number of years, particularly in the drawing

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up of deeds, mortgages, and other legal papers. He acquired the universal esteem and confidence of the people, and received the enviable title of "Poor Man's Counsellor."

Abraham Clark held several offices under the royal government, among which was that of Sheriff of Essex County; and in all of them he exhibited great fidelity. But when the question of political freedom or slavery was presented to his mind, he did not for a moment hesitate in his choice, but boldly espoused the republican cause. He was placed upon the first Committee of Vigilance organized in New Jersey, and was distinguished for his watchfulness and untiring activity.

In 1776, Abraham Clark was elected a Delegate to the Continental Congress. He first took his seat in that body in June, and he voted for and signed the Declaration of Independence, although, like the rest of his colleagues from New Jersey, he was thus jeoparding the safety of his property, and the lives of himself and family.

Richard Stockton, also of New Jersey, and also a Signer of the Declaration, was captured by the British, and remained in prison for some time. On account of his position as one of the Signers he was treated with great severity. These hardships shattered his constitution, and he died prematurely.

Another friend of Abraham Clark was John Hart, also of New Jersey, and also a Signer. He too was marked for vengeance, and when the British descended upon New Jersey the estate of John Hart was among the first to feel the effects of the desolating inroad. His farm was ravaged, his timber destroyed, his cattle and stock butchered for the use of the British army, and he, himself, was hunted like a noxious beast.

Although Abraham Clark did not suffer in person and estate, like Mr. Stockton and Mr. Hart, yet his property was much reduced in value, by his necessary neglect of it. His two sons took up arms and were captured. They were for a time incarcerated in the *Jersey* prison-ship, and suffered all the horrors of that confinement, until released by a final exchange of prisoners.

Abraham Clark remained an active member of the General Congress until peace was proclaimed, in 1783, with the exception of one term.

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In 1788, Mr. Clark was again elected to the General Congress. In the interim he was a member of the State Legislature, and an active politician. He early perceived the defects of the old Confederation, and was one of the delegates elected by New Jersey to the Convention that framed the present Constitution of the United States, in 1787. He was however prevented from attending by ill health. He was appointed one of the commissioners for settling the accounts of New Jersey with the General Government, and ably did he discharge the arduous duty. He was elected a member of Congress under the present Federal Government, and continued an active member of that body until near the close of his life. . . .

Abraham Clark was a warm partisan, and his feelings of attachment or repulsion were very strong. He had witnessed so much of the cruelty and oppressions of Great Britain, in her war upon the declared freedom of the Colonies, that his feelings of hatred could not be soothed by the treaty of peace, although he patriotically acquiesced in whatever tended to his country's good. He therefore took sides with France when questions concerning her came up in Congress; and, early in 1794, he laid before Congress a resolution for suspending all intercourse with Great Britain, until every item of the treaty of peace should be complied with. It was not sanctioned by Congress.

The views expressed by Abraham Clark in Congress regarding our foreign relations are reported quite fully in Benton's "Abridgment of the Debates of Congress." It is true that Abraham Clark was in favor of helping the French Refugees and the Algerines. It is true that he was also in favor of putting a prohibitive tariff on British importations. But as a general principle regarding our relations with the countries across the seas, Abraham Clark said that we must expect both England and France to struggle for their own interests on our continent. If France seemed to be with us, it was only because she was opposed to England; if England seemed our

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friend, it was only because of hostility toward France.

John Adams, after he was President, in 1813, wrote views concerning "British and French influences" which were not dissimilar to the prophetic words of Abraham Clark uttered more than twenty years before.

In a letter to Matthew Carey concerning the history of the American Navy, Adams wrote:

"I have witnessed for twenty-five years a studied, deliberate and systematized exertion to bury in oblivion all our naval and maritime enterprises in the Revolutionary War. Whatever there is of British influence or French influence in this country has been uniformly exerted to this end." (Autograph Letter by John Adams dated Quincy, Massachusetts, 1813.)

In his book "History of Elizabeth, New Jersey" (1868), Dr. Edwin F. Hatfield refers many times to Abraham Clark and to his father, Judge Thomas Clark. But the material gathered by Dr. Hatfield for a genealogical history of Elizabeth was never printed. In manuscript form the collection was presented by Dr. Hatfield before his death, to the New York Historical Society. From that source (Hatfield MS., pp. 74-76) the following account of the Abraham Clark family is quoted:

Sarah Hatfield, daughter of Isaac, was born at Elizabethtown, in 1728. About 1749 she was married to Abraham Clark, a great grandson of Richard Clark, who became a resident of Elizabethtown as early as 1678. Thomas, a son of Richard, was the father of Thomas (b. 1701). He was named in the first Charter of the borough as one of the Aldermen, a position which he retained until his decease, September 11, 1765. He was a sterling patriot

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and a man of great influence with his townsmen. Abraham, his only son, was born at Elizabethtown, February 15, 1726. After his marriage he brought his wife home to his father's house—a comfortable dwelling about midway between Elizabethtown and Rahway, on the upper road, about half a mile, north by west, from the Wheatsheaf Tavern. Abraham Clark commenced life as a surveyor and conveyancer. His familiarity with common law, and his readiness to impart what he knew gratuitously, caused him to be known as "The Poor Man's Counsellor." He was frequently chosen to offices in the gift of the people. He was made High Sheriff of Essex County in 1767; also Clerk of the Colonial Assembly, a member of the Committee of Safety, Dec., 1774, and subsequently their secretary; a member of the New Jersey Provincial Congress, September, 1775, by whom, June 22, 1776, he was chosen a Delegate to the Continental Congress, entering on his duty as such, June 28, 1776, and so, having voted, July 4, for the Declaration of Independence, he had the honor of becoming one of the Signers of that important paper. He was chosen to Congress in 1776, 1777, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1786, 1787, 1788. He was a member of the First Constitutional Convention, meeting at Annapolis, Md., in 1786, and of the Second and Third Congress under the Constitution of the United States. Being a member of the New Jersey State Legislature of 1784, he was the main advocate, and had the reputation of being the author, of a law which passed without serious opposition, entitled "An Act for Regulating and Shortening the Proceedings of the Courts of Law." It was known as "Clark's Law." He remarked of it—"If it succeeds it will tear off the ruffles from the Congress's wrists." He was a rigid economist and a sterling advocate of popular measures. During the whole period of his public service he proved himself an incorruptible patriot, a faithful and prudent legislator, a judicious counselor, and a true friend of the people.

"He was uniform and consistent," says the *New Jersey Journal* of the week following his death, "adorning that religion that he had early made a profession of, by acts of charity and benevolence." "His person was of the common height, his form slender, his eyebrows heavy." He was also "very temperate." "In private life he was reserved and contemplative. Limited in his

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circumstances, moderate in his desires, and unambitious of wealth, he was far from being parsimonious in his private concerns although a rigid economist in public affairs." Having been a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethtown, he was chosen one of the Trustees in 1786, and so continued for four years. His wife, Sarah, survived him more than nine years. . . . They had ten children.

As evidence of Abraham Clark's untiring industry in his political life and his invaluable services as a working member of Congress, there are on file in his handwriting among the MS. Papers of the Continental Congress at the Congressional Library in Washington, many exhaustive reports on all manner of subjects. He was one of the most energetic members of the Continental Congress of 1776 in Philadelphia, whither he was sent as a delegate by the Provincial Congress of his own State. And in later years he was one of the most efficient members of the Congress of the United States, after that body was inaugurated in 1789.

Although it seems to be the custom now for members of Congress to take a long recess over the holiday season, it was not so in 1777. Promptly on December 26, the day after Christmas, Abraham Clark was in his seat in the House, and was at once appointed on an important committee to devise effectual means to prevent persons disaffected to the interests of the United States from being employed in any of the important offices. On December 29, the letters from General Washington of December 22 and 23 were referred to Abraham Clark as the active member of a Board of War empowered to take necessary measures to supply the army with provisions and other

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necessities. ("Journals of Congress," 1777, page 414.)

There was a Continental Congress, a Congress of the Confederation, a Constitutional Convention, and a Congress of the United States. Abraham Clark was a member of all of them. Also he was a member of the New Jersey Assembly sitting at New Brunswick at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, and of the New Jersey State Legislature in 1784. To his friend James Caldwell, Abraham Clark wrote from Philadelphia on August 7, 1776:

"I regret my being moved to this Congress. I think I should have been of more service in our Province than here. I remember what Cæsar said in passing the Alps: That he had rather be the first in a small village in the Alps than the second in Rome. This will not exactly apply to myself, as I did not esteem myself the first in the Jersey Convention . . . but is in some measure applicable. . . . In your letter you tell me of our feasting here. Indeed we have plenty, but . . . my want of health will not suffer me to relish delicacies."

Abraham Clark's capacity for work continued throughout his long life. On Monday, May 12, 1794, "Mr. Clark complained that Members did not attend punctually at ten in the morning." (Reported by Gale & Seaton, Vol. IV, page 668.)

On Monday, May 19, 1794, Abraham Clark voted against the bill before the House for the augmentation of the army. After this date there is no further record of his appearance on the floor of the House, according to Benton's "Debates in Congress." The Congress adjourned on Monday, June 9, 1794.

It is quite probable that Abraham Clark passed the last four months of his life at his home. The

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following statement about his sudden death as the result of a sun-stroke was made by Dr. J. Henry Clark, a son of Rev. Daniel A. Clark, cousin of the Signer, and was printed in the "New Jersey Biographical Encyclopedia" (Galaxy Publishing Company, Phila. 1876):

"While Abraham Clark was superintending the erection of a bridge in his meadow he felt the effects of a sun-stroke. Aware of his danger, he stepped into his chaise and drove home, accompanied by Rev. Daniel A. Clark, who remained with him until he died, about two hours afterward."

There is a discrepancy of two days in the date of Abraham Clark's death as carved on the old tombstone in 1794, and the date on the more recent cenotaph and memorial monuments.

Abraham Clark was buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery on St. George's Avenue, called the Rahway Cemetery. His grave, which is about forty yards from the entrance, is marked by an upright brown sandstone, with the following inscription:

A. C.
In memory of
Abraham Clark, Esq.
who died
Sept. 15, 1794
In the 69 year of his age
Firm and decided as a patriot
Zealous and faithful as a servant of the public
He loved his country and adhered to her
in the darkest hours of her struggles
against oppression

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In the year 1848 the citizens of Rahway and vicinity erected a new memorial to the memory of Abraham Clark. The new cenotaph stands near the centre of the same cemetery; it is a monument of granite sixteen feet high. On the four faces are the following inscriptions:

Abraham Clark
Born
at Rahway
15th Feb. 1726
Died
13th Sept. 1794
In private life
A Christian
Exemplary, Consistent, Zealous
In public life
A Statesman and Patriot
In 1775 a member of the first
Provincial Congress
In 1776 one of the Committee of
Public Safety
A Delegate to the Continental Congress
and a Signer of the
Declaration of Independence
Erected
by the citizens of Rahway
4th July, 1848

The will of Abraham Clark, dated May 15, 1793, was not admitted to probate until January 18, 1800, more than five years after his death. It reads as follows:

ABRAHAM CLARK

In the Name of God Amen, I, ABRAHAM CLARK of the Borough of Elizabeth in the State of New Jersey, being of sound mind and memory blessed be God therefor, do this fifteenth day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety-three make and publish this my Last Will and Testament in manner following: First I do order that all my debts and funeral expenses be paid out of my moveable Estate.

Item: I give and devise unto my three daughters HANNAH MILLER, SARAH EDGAR, and ABIGAIL CLARK, equally among them all that part of my homestead plantation, Beginning at a stone planted for a corner on the southwest side of the West brook below my young orchard, which stone is a corner between my land and land of John Robinson, and from thence running south westerly along said Robinsons line to the corner of my land at the turn of the Raritan Road, thence easterly as my land runs along said road five chains and three rods, thence running across my young orchard northerly to a stake standing south three degrees east four chains from the first mentioned stone the place of beginning, thence from said stake running south seventy three degrees East one chain, thence north sixty three degrees East to the road that runs northerly by my dwelling house, thence northerly and westerly along said road as my land joins the same until it comes to the west brook or land of Robert Clark, thence southerly along said brook or line of Robert Clark to the corner of Land late belonging to Ezekiel Clark, thence southerly along the line of said land late belonging to Ezekiel Clark and line of John Robinsons Land to the first mentioned stone the place of beginning, To have and to hold the one equal third part of the above described tract of land with the one third part of the appurtenances unto the said Tract above described belonging or appertaining unto each of my said daughters HANNAH, SARAH, and ABIGAIL, and to each of their respective heirs and assigns forever, so that the whole of the above said Tract of Land with the appurtenances thereunto belonging be equally divided in value among my said three daughters to be and remain to them and their respective heirs and assigns forever in severalty and not as joint Tenants.

Item, I give and devise unto my son AARON CLARK and to his heirs and assigns forever, All that my tract of salt meadow

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in Raway meadows lying at and adjoining to Pardons Island commonly called Cherry Island, which meadow binds North part by a ditch dug across said Island and part by meadow of Doctor Isaac Morss and southerly by meadow of said Isaac Morss.

Item, I give and Devise unto my son ABRAHAM CLARK and to his heirs and assigns forever, all the residue and remainder of my real estate wheresoever, which is not herein before disposed of.

Item, I give unto my Daughter HANNAH MILLER the sum of forty five pounds money at eight shillings the dollar, and to my daughter ABIGAIL the sum of one hundred and twenty-five pounds money above said to be paid out of my moveable Estate as soon as convenient after my decease.

Item, I give unto my beloved wife SARAH, the silver tea pot, also I give unto my said wife for so long time as she shall remain my widow the whole use income and profit of all my real estate, except the meadow which I have devised to my son AARON, anything in the before mentioned Devises notwithstanding, also I give unto my wife for so long time as she shall remain my widow, the use of all my moveable estate remaining after paying my debts and funeral expenses, and the abovesaid bequests unto my daughters HANNAH and ABIGAIL.

Item, I give unto my said three daughters HANNAH SARAH & ABIGAIL to be equally divided among them at my said wife's intermarriage or decease which ever shall first happeneth, all that part of my moveable estate the use of which I have above given to my wife, and my will is and I do order that what I have above given to my wife shall upon her acceptance of the same, be in the full of all her right of Dower to my Estate, and that upon her marriage in case she should marry, all her right to any part of my Estate which I have given her the use of shall cease. And I do further order that in case my said wife while she has the use of my moveable Estate as above shall find it convenient to part with any of the same to any or either of my daughters, that she take and keep the amount thereof as so much of sd moveables received by such daughter as her part or share thereof, in order that they may all have equal shares of such moveables. And my will further is and I do order, any thing herein before to the contrary notwithstanding that my

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two Negro men named Tobe and Peter with their Mother Rose shall all three or such of them as choose it, be manumitted and set free at my said wife's intermarriage or decease which ever first happeneth, but with this express condition shall the two negro men be set free that they provide and support their Mother Rose during her life. And whereas my son AARON has had of me sundry sums of money and other effects of which I have taken and retain no account, but nevertheless can and do declare with certainty that he has no just claim and demand upon my Estate for more than I give him in my will. And I do hereby ordain and appoint my son ABRAHAM CLARK and my brother in law ANDREW HETFIELD, Executors of this my Last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former Wills and Testaments by me in any wise made ratifying this to be my Last Will and Testament.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed, Published and
declared by the said ABRAHAM
CLARK to be his Last Will and
Testament in the presence
of us.

ABRA. CLARK

JOHN TERRILL
PHEBE MARSH
ISAAC MARSH.

ESSEX COUNTY: SS:

Isaac Marsh one of the witnesses to the within Will on his oath says that he saw the testator ABRAHAM CLARK Esquire therein named sign and seal the same and heard him publish pronounce and declare the within instrument to be his last will and testament and at the doing thereof the said Testator was of sound and disposing mind and memory so far as this deponent knows as he verily believes that John Terrill and Phebe Marsh the other subscribing evidences were present at the same time and signed their names as witnesses to the will together with this deponent in the presence of the said Testator.

Sworn at Newark 18th Jany.
1800, Before me Alex C
McWhorter Surgte.

ISAAC MARSH.

ABRAHAM CLARK

ABRAHAM CLARK one of the Executors within named being duly sworn on his oath says that the within instrument contains the true last will and testament of ABRAHAM CLARK the testator therein named so far as he knows and as he verily believes, that he will well and truly perform the same by paying first the debts of the said deceased and then the legacies in the said testament specified so far as the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased can thereto extend, and that he will make and exhibit unto the perogative office at Trenton a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the said goods and chattels and credits which have or shall come to his knowledge or possession or to the possession of any other person or persons for his use, and render a just and true account when thereto lawfully required.

ABR. CLARK.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY—DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

I, Thomas F. Martin, Secretary of State of the State of New Jersey, do hereby Certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Last Will and Testament of ABRAHAM CLARK, deceased, Proved January 18, 1800, as the same is taken from and compared with the original Recorded in Liber No. 38 of Wills, page 545, and now remaining on file and of record in my office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal at Trenton, this thirty-first day of May A.D. 1922.

THOMAS F. MARTIN
Secretary of State.

After the death of Abraham Clark, his widow Sarah remained in possession of the homestead and farm until her death, June 2, 1804. We do not know whether there still exist any of the letters written by the Signer to his wife during his many absences from Elizabethtown while in attendance at Congress. In a letter dated Elizabethtown, October 26, 1776, to his friend Colonel Elias Dayton, Abraham Clark wrote: "My wife hath the third-day ague." Although

ABRAHAM CLARK

he was one of the most faithful attendants at the sessions of Congress, and very seldom absent from his seat, Abraham Clark many times had a great longing for his home. In a letter from Philadelphia, dated July 4, 1776, he says: "I don't feel quite reconciled at being here, and the Enemy by my Door at home."

At another time, October 26, 1776, he writes: "I propose to sue for a dismissal from Congress, finding it too hard to attend there and at the Assembly, between both of which I could not expect to spend much of my time at home."

And again, to his friend James Caldwell, Abraham Clark writes in a letter dated Philadelphia, October 3, 1781:

"Attendance in Congress hath long been a painful Service to me. . . . Dr. Witherspoon, Mr. Houston, Dr. Elmer, and myself have served three years."

No doubt Sarah was a capable helpmeet for him; a good mother, and a wise manager of the household and farm. The inventory of personal property belonging to the estate of the Signer was not made until ten years after his death (a few days after the death of Sarah); it shows that she was still conducting the farm. There were sheep, oxen, heifers, and hogs; there were scythes, plows, and spinning wheels; there was corn in the garret; there were potatoes in the cellar, and goodly stocks of hay, wheat, and rye on hand.

Following is the inventory, dated June 6, 1804, and sworn to a year later (June 29, 1805) by the

ABRAHAM CLARK

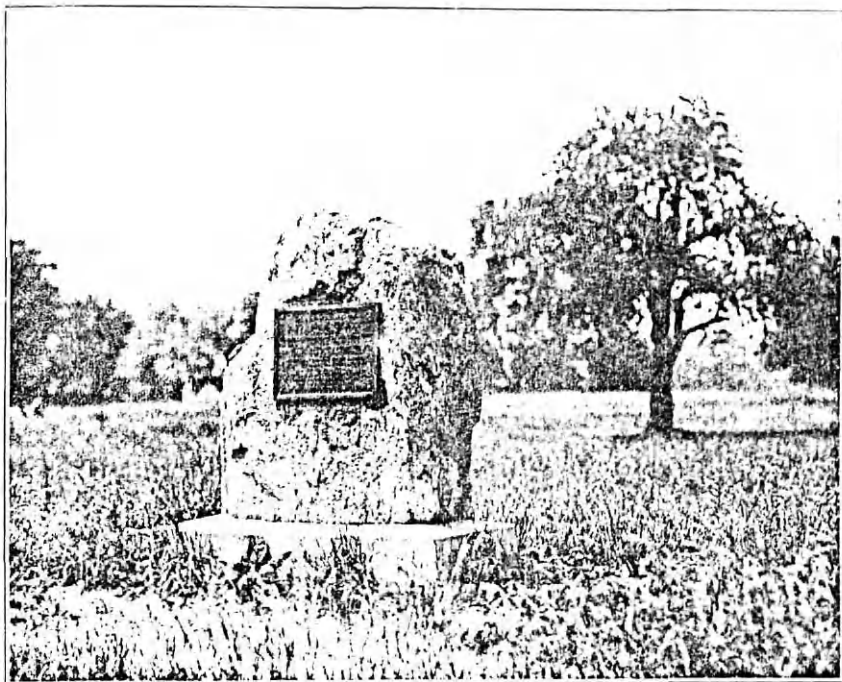
appraisers and by Dr. Abraham Clark, his father's executor:

A true and perfect Inventory of all & singular the Goods, Chattels, rights & Credits of ABRAHAM CLARK Esquire, late of the Borough of Elizabeth and County of Essex, deceased, made by us whose names are hereunto subscribed, the Sixth day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Eighteen Hundred & four.

A Horse.....	£ 6 0 0
11 Sheep & 9 Lambs.....	12 0 0
4 Cows & 1 Calf.....	32 0 0
2 3 Years Old Steers.....	13 0 0
2 ys Old Steers.....	7 0 0
3 Heiffers.....	11 0 0
3 Hogs & 16 Pigs.....	14 0 0
6 Axes.....	1 0 0
3 pr Rope Geers.....	0 12 0
2 Ox Chains.....	1 0 0
1 Ox Cart.....	8 0 0
1 Horse Cart.....	2 0 0
1 Plough—30/.....	1 10 0
1 Sleigh—80/.....	4 0 0
A lot of English Hay.....	4 0 0
Lot of Straw.....	0 10 0
a Flax Brake.....	0 3 0
2 Calves.....	3 0 0
Wheat in the Garret.....	0 12 0
Corn do.....	4 10 0
Buckwheat do.....	1 12 0
Rye in do.....	4 16 0
Oat in do.....	0 9 0
5 Casks containing Grain in do.....	0 15 0
1 Set of Sleigh Harness.....	4 0 0
1 Large sitting Chair.....	0 4 0
2 Spinning Wheels.....	1 0 0
1 Rocking Chair.....	0 3 0
1 Cross-cut Saw.....	0 5 0
2 Cradles & 1 Sythes.....	0 16 0

ABRAHAM CLARK

2 Empty Chests.....	0 10 0
11 Fleeces of Wool—H 30.....	4 10 0
1 Broad Cloth loom.....	0 8 0
1 Set Sleigh Geers.....	0 4 0
2 Flax Hatchets.....	0 9 0
a Lot of Lumber in the upper Garret.....	0 5 0
Lumber in the Middle Garret.....	0 10 0
1 Cask of Pork.....	5 0 0
1 do Hams & Beef.....	2 0 0
2 do Soap.....	1 0 0
1 Cask with Spirit.....	3 0 0
Lot of Articles in the Cellar Way.....	1 0 0
1 New Tea Kettle.....	0 16 0
1 pr. Smoothing Irons.....	0 5 0
1 Saddle & Bridle.....	1 0 0
1 High Post Bedstedt Bedding.....	8 0 0
1 Set Blue Bed Curtain.....	2 0 0
1 Cloaths Cupboard or press.....	1 0 0
1 Old Table 4/ Jugs &c in the Pantry 8/.....	0 12 0
Small Carpet 8/ 6 Fiddle back Chairs 18/.....	1 16 0
1 Clock.....	10 0 0
1 Breakfast Table 16/ a Beaufet 24/.....	2 0 0
3 Decanters Tea & coffee pot.....	0 16 0
a Lot of Earthen Ware table set.....	1 10 0
1 pr. Brass top Andirons Shovel & tongs.....	1 12 0
1 Carpet.....	1 4 0
3 Black Chairs 16/ 3 pr Window Curtains.....	1 8 0
1 pr brass Candle sticks 10/ Cloath brush 1/.....	0 11 0
1 Large Looking Glass 60/ Dining Table 40/.....	5 0 0
1 Oval Tea Table 24/ 8 Fan back Chairs 40/.....	3 4 0
1 pr. brass Andirons 24/.....	1 4 0
Tea Tray & China.....	3 4 0
1 Large Carpet.....	6 8 0
2 Japan'd Waiters 15/ Lot of Glass 20/.....	1 15 0
3 prs Venetian blinds 72/.....	3 12 0
1 Looking Glass 24/ Field bed stead.....	9 4 0
1 Feather bed 100/ Toilet Table 6.....	5 0 6
1 Small Carpet 80/ Desk & Bookcase 30/.....	5 10 0
Lot of Books 8/ Green baize 18/.....	1 6 0



IN REMEMBRANCE OF
ABRAHAM CLARK
1726-1794

A SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
FROM NEW JERSEY

HE LIVED ON THIS SITE DURING THE
FORMATIVE PERIOD OF THE REPUBLIC

ERECTED BY THE NEW JERSEY SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
SEPTEMBER 15, 1919

IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF HIS
STATESMANSHIP AND PATRIOTISM
ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS PASSING INTO THE LARGER LIFE

ABRAHAM CLARK

a Bedsted & Cot 20/ Sundry old bedding 20/.....	2	0	0
a Feather Cover 24/ Old Trunk 4/.....	1	8	0
Best Feather Bed & 4 Pillows 140/.....	7	0	0
a Negro Girl.....	70	0	0
a Negro Man (Peter) No Value.....	0	0	0
An Old Negro Wench (Rose) No Value.....	0	0	0

£ 345 8 6

ROBERT CLARK
CHARLES H. HUGHES.

The "young orchard" mentioned by Abraham Clark in his will was presumably an apple orchard, if we may believe the testimony of old men whose recollections a few years ago dated back to the time when there still was standing a part of the old house—the house which had been occupied by Judge Thomas Clark; where Abraham Clark, Signer, was born; where the Abraham Clark family lived until the death of Sarah, widow of the Signer, in 1804. For many years after the house proper had been demolished one wing remained. After the wheat, corn, and rye in the garret, the lot of lumber in the upper garret, the casks of pork, hams, and beef in the cellar, the potatoes in the outer cellar, the churn in the milk room, and all the other equipment of a well-regulated farm house had been sold by the executor, for nearly a century a part of the house remained, surrounded by apple trees. There are no buildings now on the old site. About twenty years ago a fire swept away all that was left of the ancient dwelling of Abraham Clark, the Signer.

Its former site, however, has been marked. At the intersection of Chestnut Street and Ninth Avenue, in Roselle, on the east side of the old road to the

ABRAHAM CLARK

Wheatsheaf Tavern, about four hundred feet east of the spot where Abraham Clark was born and lived and died, a massive boulder has been placed by the New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. On its face it bears the inscription:

*In Remembrance of Abraham Clark 1726-1794
A Signer of the Declaration of Independence.*

A brief table showing the descent of Abraham Clark, Signer, from the first of his line of the Clark family in New Jersey, follows:

RICHARD CLARK, d. 1697. Will proved in New York, Apr. 15, 1697. m. Elizabeth (Intestate. Feb. 16, 1725. Essex Co. Wills, Bk. A, p. 238). Children:

I. RICHARD, b. at Southold abt. 1661. Shipwright. Will proved (Lib. 3, p. 58) May 17, 1743. Children:

I HANNAH

II RICHARD, d. 1743. Children:

1. RICHARD

2. ELISHA

3. JAMES

4. REUBEN

5. THOMAS

6. RACHEL, w. of Wm. Lawrence.

7. JEMIMA, w. of Dan'l Kelsey.

8. ABIGAIL CLARK (18 years of age).

Five sons under age. Executors: wife Hannah and Son James. Wit. Abra. Clarke and John Terrell. Will made by Abra. Clarke.

III ABIGAIL

IV ELIZABETH

V HENRY

VI JOHN

VII JONATHAN

2. JOHN, m. Martha. Will proved June 8, 1705; Wit: Samuel Melyen and Samuel Carter. (Lib 1, pp. 120-

ABRAHAM CLARK

124.) Executors, wife and bro. Ephraim. Oct 23, 1705,
Ephraim's renunciation.

3. ELIZABETH

4. JOSHUA, m. Abigail. Will proved Feb. 9. 1715. (Lib. I,
p. 518.) Executors: Wife and bro. Ephraim; children:

I JOSHUA; will proved Mar. 12, 1759.

II JOHN

III JOSEPH

IV BENJAMIN

V ABIGAIL POULE

5. SAMUEL, m. Susanna. Will proved Apr. 11, 1716; (Lib.
A, p. 11.) Children:

I SAMUEL

II JONATHAN

III JOHN

IV ISAAC

V SUSANNA

VI SARAH

VII ELIZABETH

6. EPHRAIM, planter of Elizabethtown; intestate Oct. 28,
1717 (Lib. A, p. 83); m. Hannah (Essex Co. Deeds,
Lib. B, p. 29, May 6, 1704).

7. THOMAS, planter of Elizabethtown; m. Hannah (Essex
Co. Deeds Bk B, p. 33). Will of Thomas Clark, yeo-
man, proved Aug. 22, 1711. (Vol. 5, of unrecorded
Deeds, pp. 114-115.) Children:

I THOMAS; b. 1701; d. Sept. 11, 1765; m. 1st, a
dau. of Samuel Winans. 2nd, Elizabeth.

One Child, ABRAHAM CLARK; b. Feb. 15, 1726; d.
Sept. 13, 1794. Will proved Jan. 18, 1800.

II ABRAHAM; b. 1703; d. Sept 26, 1765; m. Sarah.
Capt. Abraham Clark died intestate. Re-
nunciation of Sarah to Benjamin Marsh (Bk
H, p. 540, 480). Abra. Clark, witness.

III JAMES.

IV DANIEL.

V A daughter, Mrs. ——— Day.

8. BENJAMIN.

ABRAHAM CLARK

Thomas Clark, father of the Signer, was named in the first charter of the Borough of Elizabeth as one of the Aldermen; he was a magistrate and was called "Judge." His tastes were simple, his ideas were democratic. He lived without ostentation, and he desired to be buried without the ceremonious extravagance which was the custom for funerals at that time. A few days after his death the following paragraph appeared in a weekly newspaper:

On Wednesday evening last (September 11, 1765) died here, after a severe illness, Thomas Clark, Esq'r, one of the judges of the county court; who has been unanimously elected a magistrate in this Corporation ever since we had a Charter; and Friday was decently buried, in the plain manner, by his own directions, according to the new mode—none of his relations or friends appearing in mourning, though he was universally lamented by all who know him, as he left the character of an honest man. We flatter ourselves that this laudable example, so very seasonably set by people of fortune, will be imitated by all; especially by those in slender circumstances. No liquor was given at the funeral. (*New York Mercury*; Barber's "Historical Collections"; Hatfield's "Elizabeth.")

Abraham Clark, uncle of the Signer, was the next younger brother of Thomas. He was called "Captain of the Troop." He was born about 1703, and died September 26, 1765, only a few days after the death of his brother. Both were buried in Rahway Cemetery. Captain Abraham Clark owned lands next adjoining the farm of his brother, Judge Thomas Clark, on the west. It was not until after the death of his uncle, Captain Abraham Clark, that the Signer dropped "Junior" from his signature. During the period when he was Clerk of the Colonial Assembly at Amboy he signed "Abra: Clark, jun'r, Clk." On

ABRAHAM CLARK

the tombstone of his infant son Cavalier, who died in 1764, the inscription reads: "son of Abraham and Sarah Clark jun'rs."

After the outbreak of the war, during the early years of his political life, the Signer was affectionately called "Congress Abraham," to distinguish him from all the other Abraham Clarks in the vicinity of Elizabethtown.

By reason of his position as a magistrate, Judge Thomas Clark was frequently summoned to draw wills, and to serve as executor. In many of the early wills now on file at Trenton, we find the names of Thomas Clark, executor, and Abra: Clark, jun'r, as witness. Thus conveyancing and surveying had come to be the principal occupations of Abraham Clark in early life.

Up to 1775 Abraham Clark's life had been a comparatively placid one. When the troubles with Britain began he speedily took up his country's cause, first as a member of the Committee of Safety and of the Provincial Congress; subsequently as a member of the Continental Congress. It was not long before he was obliged to devote practically his entire time to his duties as a member of that Congress engaged in prosecuting the war.

With all the partisanship of an intense patriotism Abraham Clark laid aside his private affairs for the public cause, and his hitherto peaceful life became a stormy one.

II

The Children of Abraham Clark

II

The Children of Abraham Clark

LITTLE is known in detail concerning the lives of Abraham Clark's children. His two elder sons, Aaron and Thomas, were in the revolutionary conflict from the beginning; we have their war records from the War Department at Washington, and from the office of the Adjutant General of the State of New Jersey. Aaron Clark served in the New Jersey Militia in and around Elizabeth and East Jersey, and was discharged with the rank of Captain. Thomas Clark was ranked a Captain of Artillery in the Continental Army.

The first date at which we find these two sons of the Signer mentioned in any document of record is in the year 1765, when their grandfather, Judge Thomas Clark, named them in his will, leaving to each a large tract of land. The will of Judge Thomas Clark would seem to prove that his "beloved son Abraham" (the Signer) was his only child. And from the fact that Judge Thomas Clark names only two grandsons in his will, the presumption is strong that they were the eldest grandsons living at that date.

The will of Judge Thomas Clark (father of the Signer) was signed September 10, 1765. Probate was

ABRAHAM CLARK

granted October 1, 1765, on which date Abraham Clark (Signer) qualified as executor. The two elder sons of the Signer, Aaron and Thomas Clark, were the principal legatees. The text of the will follows:

In the Name of God Amen, I THOMAS CLARK of the Borough of Elizabeth in the Province of New Jersey Esq'r, being weak in Body but of sound and perfect mind and memory blessed be God therefore Do this tenth day of September in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and sixty five, make and publish this my last will and Testament in manner following. First I do order that all my Just Debts and funeral Charges be paid out of my moveable Estate.

Item I Give and Bequeath unto my beloved wife ELIZABETH, the Bed and furniture she bro't me, and one other of my Beds and furniture suitable which ever she shall Chose. Also the sum of fifty pounds in such Bonds and Bills as she shall chose, three of my best Cows, and also such of my household Goods as she shall think proper to the amount of fifty pounds, and also three pair of sheets, three pair of pillow Cases, and three Table Cloths, and three hundred weight of pork and one hundred weight of Beef to be delivered her at killing time; also six bushels of wheat, Twenty five Bushels of Ears of Indian Corn and Ten Bushels of Turnips, and Keeping for her Cows during the Ensuing winter, also the use of my Negro wench Rose during the life of my said wife, and the use of my Rideing Chair & Horse. And whereas I have by Joynture Settled a Certain messuage & Tenement upon my said wife during her life, which messuage has no fire wood on it I do therefore give unto my said wife the priviledge of Cutting Eight Cart load of fire wood yearly during her Life off the lands I bought of William Winans, joyning upon Raway River.

Item I Give and Devise unto my Grandson AARON CLARKE and to his heirs and assigns forever All the lands and Tenements I purchased from Andrew Hampton Joyning the Lands of Ephraim Terrill and the West Brook (reserving thereout the priviledge my wife hath therein by Joynture).

Item I Give & devise unto my Grandson THOMAS CLARKE and to his heirs and assigns forever all that Tract of land and

Aaron Clark.
Thomas Clark

Abra: Clark

ABRAHAM CLARK

premises lying Adjoyning upon Raway River, which I purchased from William Winans, reserving out of the same the priviledge I have before given to my wife of Cutting firewood thereon and also a priviledge for my Son Abraham Clarke to Cut firewood Thereon, And I ordain and appoint my beloved Son ABRAHAM CLARKE to be Sole Executor of this my Last Will & Testament.

In Witness whereof I have to this my last Will and Testament Set my hand and Seal the Day & Year first above written.

THOS. CLARKE

Signed Sealed Published & Declared by the said Thomas Clarke to be his last will & Testament in the Presence of us
Jona Hampton
Chris. Manlove
Lydia Gostelowe

Jonathan Hampton Esq'r and Lydia Gostelowe two of the witnesses to the within written will being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God did severally depose that they saw THOMAS CLARKE Esq'r the testator within named sign and seal the same, and heard him publish pronounce and declare the within Instrument to be his last will and Testament, & that at the doing thereof the said Testator was of sound and disposing mind and memory as far as these deponents know and as they verily believe.

Also at the same time ABRAHAM CLARK the executor within named Came before me and was duly Qualified by the taking the Oath of Executors as appointed by Law.

Sworn at the Borough of Elizabeth this first day of October 1765 Before me Robert Ogden.

Probate Granted by Gov. Franklin in the usual form dated the same first day of October 1765. (Liber II of Wills, page 572.)

"Elizabeth," mentioned in the will of Judge Thomas Clark as his widow, was probably his second wife, and not the mother of Abraham Clark, the Signer. Judge Thomas Clark's first wife was a daughter of Samuel Winans, Senior; probably the eldest daughter, Hannah. Samuel Winans, in his

ABRAHAM CLARK

will dated June 13, 1744 (Book E, page 87), named his son-in-law Judge Thomas Clark as one of his executors. And the son of the above Samuel Winans (also named Samuel) appointed his brother-in-law Judge Thomas Clark as one of his executors. (Will dated Sept. 4, 1758; proved January 6, 1773; Book K, page 521.)

Aaron Clark was probably about fifteen years of age in 1765 when his grandfather died. Thomas Clark was probably about thirteen. Therefore their father, the Signer, who was their natural guardian, came into possession of their lands as the executor of the estate of his father Judge Thomas Clark. The Signer no doubt paid the taxes, and worked the lands as he did with his own farm. No deed or other conveyance has been found of record in Essex County showing that Captain Thomas Clark ever came into the possession of his strip of woodland "lying adjoining upon Raway River." This woodland, which the grandfather had purchased from William Winans, was burdened with easements; one of these easements was the widow Elizabeth's "priviledge of Cutting Eight Cart Load of fire wood yearly dureing her Life off the lands I bought of William Winans, joyning upon Raway River"; another was "a priviledge for my son Abraham Clarke to cut firewood Thereon."

In the year 1770 the signatures of Aaron and Thomas Clark appear together as witnesses to the will of Isaac Winans, who made his will on August 23, 1770, naming Abraham Clark (the Signer) as one of the executors. Ten years later, when the testator died and the will was admitted to probate,

ABRAHAM CLARK

Aaron Clark again signed his name as one of the subscribing witnesses. His father, however (the Signer), renounced the executorship in favor of Moses Winans, a son of the testator. The last paragraph of the Winans will, with the signatures of the witnesses made on August 23, 1770, and Aaron Clark's deposition ten years later (after the death of the testator), are as follows:

And I ordain, Constitute and Appoint my Trusty friends Amos Morse and Abraham Clark Executors of this my last Will & Testament hereby revoking all former Wills and Testaments by me in any Wise made Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand and seal the day and year first herein above written.

Signed Sealed Published and Delivered

by the said Isaac Winans to be his ISAAC WINANS

Last Will and Testament in the
presence of

AARON CLARK

THOMAS CLARK

MARY HUBBELL

ABRA. CLARK

Aaron Clark one of the Witnesses to the within Will being duly sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, did depose and say that he saw Isaac Winans the Testator therein named sign and seal the same and heard him publish, pronounce and declare the within writing to be his last Will and Testament and that at the doing thereof the s'd Testator was of sound and disposing Mind and Memory as far as this Deponent knows and as he verily believes and that Thomas Clark & Mary Hubbell & Abraham Clark were present at the same Time & subscribed their Names as Witnesses to the sd Will together with This Deponent and in presence of sd Testator.

Sworn before me at Eliz'th Town

this 30th day of June 1780.

Robt. Ogden Jr. Surgt'.

AARON CLARK

ABRAHAM CLARK

Aaron Clark was doubtless of age prior to 1773, for he then sold a part of the land which he had inherited from his grandfather. By deed dated October 27, 1773, Aaron Clark conveyed to Thomas Hughes, saddle-tree maker, 14 acres of land binding easterly and northerly by the Raritan Road; westerly to the plantation of Jacob Hampton, deceased, and southerly by the lands of Ephraim Terrill, Esq. This deed is not of record; it is referred to in the deed of Thomas Hughes, saddle-tree maker, to his son Charles Howell Hughes, covering the same lot of land:

March 23, 1795. "Whereas, Aaron Clark, by deed dated October 27, 1773, conveyed the land described in Thomas Hughes's deed to his son. . . . (Book 1, page 325)." Charles H. Hughes, in a deed dated April 1, 1842, conveyed the same fourteen acres of land to Benjamin Winans (Book S 5, page 350). Thus the lands inherited by Aaron Clark from his grandfather have been definitely located. But no deed has been found of record in Essex County executed by William Winans conveying to Judge Thomas Clark the tract of woodland lying on the Rahway River which the latter said that he bought (presumably prior to March 26, 1763, for on that date the will of William Winans was probated); and which Judge Thomas Clark left in his will to his grandson Captain Thomas Clark.

In a weekly newspaper, November 24, 1773, the name of Aaron Clark appeared in an advertisement, as follows:

TO BE SOLD—Two stocking frames and looms both in good order for working. Enquire of Aaron Clark living at the fulling mills in Elizabeth-Rahway where fulling dying and dressing of cloth is now carried on by approved workmen who will endeavor to serve such as favor them with their custom in such manner as they with reason hope will give satisfaction, they having

ABRAHAM CLARK

every requisite for carrying on said works they think at least equal to any in America. (New Jersey Archives, Vol. XXIX, page 111.)

There can be no doubt of the identity of Aaron Clark in the foregoing advertisement as the son of the Signer; Abraham Clark himself had but a short time previously (March 8, 1773) advertised a theft from this same mill, as follows:

The fulling mills of the Subscriber in Elizabethtown-Rahway, was broke open on the night of 2nd Inst., & sundry pieces of cloth stolen among which were 2 pieces of blue with a small mixture of white, one piece of fulled worsted of blue warp & black filing. Ten dollars reward & all reasonable charges arising by apprehending the thieves or recovering this cloth will be paid by Abraham Clark. (New Jersey Archives, Vol. XXVII, page 448.)

On November 10, 1774, Thomas Clark had an advertisement running in a weekly newspaper, as follows:

Strayed from the pasture of the said Thomas Clark a dark bay Horse about 14 hands high with a star on his forehead, a small white mark on his nose, black mane and tail, his mane rather inclined to lie on the near side; his tail has a long dock, he trots all, and canters very slow and easy. Whoever takes up the said horse, or gives such information that the owner may have him again shall receive eight dollars reward. (New Jersey Archives, Vol. XXIX, page 522.)

When the name of Thomas Clark next appears in print his rural occupations have been set aside for the time; the scourge of war lay on the land, and Thomas Clark's life as a soldier had begun.

ABRAHAM CLARK

Friday, March 1, 1776, the Provincial Congress elected officers for two Companies of Artillery: Frederick Frelinghuysen, Captain; Daniel Neil, Captain-Lieutenant; Thomas Clark, 1st Lieutenant of the Eastern Company. (American Archives, Series 4, Vol. IV, page 1605.)

The name of Lieutenant Thomas Clark is among the list of about forty commissioned officers of the Revolutionary Army who were regular attendants at the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethtown, of which Rev. James Caldwell was pastor. (Hatfield's "Elizabethtown," page 525.)

The following War Records of Aaron Clark and Thomas Clark are from the Archives of the United States War Department, Washington, D. C.:

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON, April 24, 1922.

The records of this office show that one AARON CLARK served in the Revolutionary War as a captain in a New Jersey organization, but the date of his entry into service and of his separation therefrom are not shown. His name appears on various abstracts of pay rolls and Abstracts of Bounty rolls which indicate that he was in service at different periods from July 17, 1776, to October 20, 1778, in a regiment shown as First Essex and as Artillery regiment, under Col. S. Seeley, Col. E. Thomas, Col. Neelson and Lieut. Col. Jaques at Elizabethtown, Newark, and Hackensack. No further record of his service has been found, nor has any record of his capture and release by the British been found.

The collection of Revolutionary War records in this office is far from complete, and it is suggested as a possibility that additional information may be obtained from the Adjutant

ABRAHAM CLARK

General of New Jersey, Trenton, or from the Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, D. C.

ROBERT C. DAVIS
Acting The Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

WASHINGTON, April 24, 1922.

The records show that one THOMAS CLARK served in the Revolutionary War as a Captain of Captain Thomas Clark's Company of Artillery, Continental troops, commanded by Col. John Lamb. He was commissioned January 1, 1777, date also shown as March 15, 1777, and his name last appears on the company muster rolls for June, 1779, date July 9, 1779, with remark: "On furlough by Col. Harrison." No later record of him has been found, nor do the records afford any information relative to his being taken prisoner.

The collection of Revolutionary War records in this office is far from complete, and it is suggested as a possibility that additional information may be obtained from the Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, D. C., or from the authorities of the State from which the within named man may have entered the service.

ROBERT C. DAVIS
Acting The Adjutant General.

The War Records on file at Trenton in the office of the Adjutant General of the State of New Jersey, are somewhat more complete, and read as follows:

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL,
TRENTON, March 27, 1922.

It is certified that the records of this office show that AARON CLARK served as Lieutenant, Captain Daniel Neil's Company of Artillery, New Jersey State Troops, April 6, 1776, to March 1, 1777; Captain Company of Artillery, First Regiment, Essex County New Jersey Militia, 1777; commanded his company of thirty-seven men serving at Elizabethtown under Colonel

ABRAHAM CLARK

Sylvanus Seely, January, 1778; in service at Elizabethtown, March and July, 1778, and at Newark, May, June, and July, 1778; in service at Hackensack, October, 1778, and at Elizabethtown, October, 1778, and June, 1779; received certificate 643, amounting to £2:5:0, for the depreciation of his Continental pay in the Essex County New Jersey Militia,—during the Revolutionary War.

FREDERICK GILKYSON
The Adjutant General.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
TRENTON, March 27, 1922.

It is certified that the records of this office show that THOMAS CLARK was commissioned First Lieutenant, Captain Frederick Frelinghuysen's Eastern Company of Artillery, New Jersey State Troops, March 1, 1776; (Captain Daniel Neil succeeded to command previous to April 20, 1776;) Captain Lieutenant, Captain Neil's Eastern Company of Artillery, New Jersey State Troops; commanded detachments of his company stationed at New Blazing Starr, July to November, 1776; was at battles of Trenton, New Jersey, December 26, 1776, and Princeton, New Jersey, January 3, 1777; Captain, Eastern Company of Artillery, New Jersey State Troops, to succeed Captain Neil, who was killed at battle of Princeton; Captain, Colonel John Lamb's Second Regiment, Artillery, Continental Army, February 1, 1777; was at battles of Brandywine, Delaware, September 11, 1777, Germantown, Pennsylvania, October 4, 1777, and Monmouth, New Jersey, June 28, 1778; appointed under Act of December 20, 1783, as Commissioner for Essex County to settle and adjust payrolls, and issue notes for amounts due militiamen for services,—during the Revolutionary War.

FREDERICK GILKYSON
The Adjutant General.

Certified at the request of Mrs. Jerome A. Hart,
San Francisco, California.

The first broad pension law of the United States Government was passed about 1816; but a majority



The Princeton Battle Monument

By Frederick MacMonnies

Dedicated June 9, 1922, at Princeton University

ABRAHAM CLARK

of the widows of veterans who were pensioned made application under a more favorable law passed about 1833. In reply to an inquiry addressed to the Bureau of Pensions in regard to members of the Clark family, the following reply was received from the Commissioner of Pensions:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, May 15, 1922.

In reply to your letter dated 1st, and received the 7th ultimo, you are advised that the Revolutionary War Records of this Bureau fail to afford any information in regard to Adolph Jonas, or Aaron Clark and Thomas Clark described by you.

Very respectfully,

WASHINGTON GARDNER
Commissioner.

In view of the fact that in 1778-1779 Captain Thomas Clark served in the Artillery Regiments of both Colonel Lamb and Colonel Harrison, the following letter from General Washington, the Commander-in-chief, will be of interest. The letter was printed in "Records of the Revolutionary War," by W. T. R. Saffell (1858):

HEAD QUARTERS, VALLEY FORGE, May 30, 1778.

. . . Col. Crane's Regiment of Artillery is to be mustered on Monday next at 10 o'clock.

Col. Lamb's and Col. Proctor's at the same hour on Tuesday, and Col. Harrison's on Wednesday.

The officers will be careful to have their muster-rolls made out correctly, and see that their men have their blankets neatly rolled up, as they must parade with them on. . . .

Capt. Brown's and Capt. Dorsey's Companies of Maryland Artillery are annexed to Col. Harrison's Regiment, with which they are to do duty till further orders.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

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Early in 1776 Thomas Clark was commissioned First Lieutenant in Captain Frederick Frelinghuysen's Eastern Company of Artillery, and was on duty with the New Jersey State troops until he became a Captain of Artillery in the Continental Army the following year. Tradition says that Captain Thomas Clark was captured by the British and was imprisoned on the prison-ship *Jersey*. History says that Captain Thomas Clark experienced the most cruel persecution at a time when the treatment of American prisoners by the British was barbarous and disgraceful to a civilized nation. But in the United States War Department there is now no record to be found of Captain Thomas Clark's imprisonment or release. It is believed that a representation was made to Congress by Abraham Clark, of the cruel persecution of his son, and that retaliation was resorted to on a British Captain, which resulted in Captain Thomas Clark's release. (Sander-son's "Lives of the Signers," Vol. VI, page 60.) His experience was probably not unlike that of Richard Stockton, who was taken prisoner, endured cruel sufferings in a British prison, and was finally released in exchange for a British officer, but never regained his health and died in 1781, before the end of the war.

A moving letter from the "condemned room" of a British prison in New York, addressed to Congress by a group of the imprisoned patriots, may be printed here, as it shows the malevolent and brutal treatment of American prisoners in British dungeons. A copy of the letter is on file in the Division of MSS., Library of Congress:

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PROVOST CONDEMNED ROOM, Dec. 28, 1780.

THE HONORABLE THE CONGRESS: This is the fourth day of our being at this place—have drew no kind of subsistence except water—we have not yet been informed the cause of such treatment—if it is for retaliation we will endeavour to bear it, yet think ourselves improper subjects to bear such hardships. No one but those who experience can form an Idea of the disagreeableness of the place—we are exposed to the North west blasts without the least obstruction to the cold except the grates—Humbly solicit something may be immediately done for us—consider the long imprisonment we have bore; and most of the time destitute of anything to make us comfortable— We have disposed of cloathing to exchanged prisoners with the prospect of having necessities sent to us from the Jerseys, but have never received anything for them, being informed that the commandant at Elizabethtown would not suffer any such necessities to be sent us.

The severity of weather in this place will not admit of many words—beg the hon'ble Congress will consider our sad fate and relieve us from such scenes of distress, and they will lay many obligations on their very humble servants—

GEORGE LYMAN
JAMES HALLETT
PETER FOSTER
THOMAS SELBY
THOMAS CLARK
DANIEL LAWRENCE
SIMON TYLOR

Masters of Whale boats.

When we consider that most of the young men about Elizabethtown were accustomed to handling boats it is not to be wondered at that commissioned officers during their furloughs, or during the long periods when the army was in winter quarters and inactive, should act as "masters of whale boats." Many daring raids were thus made by small parties of patriots against the British on Long Island. The

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services of the so-called masters of whale boats in guarding the stores of the patriot army and in preventing inroads of the enemy were recognized by Congress. The whale boat was commonly used all along the Jersey Coast on account of its handy and sea-going qualities. It was a long narrow boat, twenty or thirty feet long, sharp at both ends, high at bow and stern, and fitted for steering with an oar.

The distance between the camps of the enemy on Staten Island and the homes of the patriots in Elizabethtown was scarcely more than six miles. "We have been long alarmed in the Jerseys by the enemy encamped with most of their army on Staten Island," wrote Abraham Clark, on October 16, 1781, in a letter to Colonel Dayton; "we have not heard of their sailing yet; I believe they are only waiting for a fair wind; they have, reports say, six thousand troops embarked."

During the long period of the enemy's occupation of Staten Island the business of "trading with the enemy" had grown to such proportions that Abraham Clark, in a letter to Governor Livingston, dated Elizabethtown, November 24, 1779, wrote as follows:

"Trading with the Enemy is now become so general that from the best information I can Obtain I believe that among all the Numerous Inhabitants living below the Country road between Elizabethtown and Woodbridge nearly nine tenths are either advertently or inadvertently concerned in promoting the Trade. . . . Perhaps this trade may by some be thought rather beneficial than Injurious. . . . We find people of undisputed characters . . . once they had tasted the sweets of gain, would sacrifice their friends and connections to it. . . . Another proof

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of Trading having this effect may be drawn from the behavior of many upon the Seizure of goods made by my son."

The exact date of Aaron Clark's marriage is not known. When Benjamin Winans made his will, dated April 12, 1791, he left a legacy of £200 to his daughter Susannah Clark. This Susannah, Rev. Edwin A. Hatfield says, was the wife of Captain Aaron Clark, son of the Signer. Abraham Clark (the Signer) was named as one of the executors by Benjamin Winans in his will. Just prior to this date Abraham Clark (the Signer) placed a mortgage on a certain tract of land "situate, lying, and being in the township of Elizabeth whereon the s'd Aaron Clark resides." This mortgage is dated September 6, 1790. From the wording of this document it would seem as if the family of Aaron Clark had not "gone West" with him when he first acquired title to lands in Washington County, Pennsylvania, and placed his name on the United States Census there in 1790. Presumably Susannah and her small children remained at the family home in Elizabeth, since the Signer speaks of the tract of land he mortgaged as "the premises whereon the s'd Aaron Clark resides."

However, the enumeration for the census-taking was not begun until the first Monday of August, 1790, and the time allowed for its completion was nine months; which would have enabled Aaron Clark to remain in New Jersey until the end of the year 1790, or even later, and still be in Washington

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County, Pennsylvania, in time for enrollment there on the 1790 Census.

The following is a copy of the mortgage given by Abraham Clark (Book C, page 21):

September 6, 1790, ABRAHAM CLARK of Elizabethtown unto Charles le Rouex of the City of New York, Gentleman, for one hundred pounds current money of New York, at or before the 6th day of September next ensuing, with lawful interest.

"All that certain messuage or tract of land and premises, situate lying and being in the township of Elizabeth whereon the sd AARON CLARK now resides. Beginning at a beech tree standing on the east side of Rahway river marked on four sides with the letters S. M. being a corner of land formerly of Samuel Mills dec'd; from thence running along said Mills's line South fifty two degrees East 3 ch. and 75 links to a white oak stump; thence along said Mills's line North 49 degrees East 28 ch. and 47 links to a stake, being a corner of land of George Ross dec'd, thence with said Ross's line north 50 degrees West 9 ch. and 71 links to a stake, thence north 55 degrees and 45 minutes East 10 ch. and 13 links to the road that leads from Barnett's Mills to Rahway Landing; thence along said road North 41 degrees West 3 ch. and 37 links, thence along said road north 61 degrees 15 minutes West 5 ch. and 20 links; Thence N. 80 degrees West 3 ch. to Rahway River near the lower end of Barnett's Mills; thence crossing said river and running down the same on the West side thereof about 13 ch. to a corner of Jacob Winans' land, thence along his line South 80 degrees West 2 ch and 94 links to a rock, a corner of said Winans land; thence along said Winans line South 42 degrees West 16 ch. and 10 links to land late of Hezekiah Woodruff; thence with his line South 73 degrees and 30 minutes East 4 ch. and 82 links to said Woodruff's corner on the Bank of the River; thence down the River as the same runs to the place of Beginning, containing 48 acres of land."

Acknowledged by the Mortgagor before Isaac Woodruff, Esq'r, and recorded same day, viz. September 6, 1790.

Endorsed on said Mortgage Book:

Be it remembered that on the 19th day of June in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-three,

ABRAHAM CLARK

ABRAHAM CLARK, Esq'r within named, produced in this office the original Mortgage here recorded, the same being fully cancelled.

AARON OGDEN, Clerk

It would not be unreasonable to suppose that this tract of land "whereon Aaron Clark resided" was the same land as that "lying adjoining upon Raway River" which Judge Thomas Clark purchased from William Winans, were it not that another deed among the Essex County records mentions this tract as "land formerly conveyed by said David Ross to Abraham Clark." A copy of the deed follows:

November 19, 1774. David Ross of Borough of Elizabeth in the province of New Jersey, Carpenter, and Hannah, his wife, to Jacob Winans of the same place, Yeoman; consideration 925 pounds.

Beginning at a dog-wood sapling on the edge of the bank of the Rahway River being a corner of land of John Williams, thence running along said Williams line south $41^{\circ} 30'$ west 9 ch. & 78 links to a stone planted for a corner of John Williams and marked with the letters J. W. standing the nearest side of the road leading by John Williams house to the Raritan Road; thence along said road south $48^{\circ} 25'$ east 19 ch and 19 links to a post standing in the southeast side of the Raritan Road at 30 links southwest from the west corner of the house formerly a school house, which post is a corner of the land of Hezekiah Woodruff; thence along said Woodruff's line south $45^{\circ} 40'$ east 54 links to a post thence along said Woodruff's line North 46° East 1 chain to another corner of said Woodruff's land thence along said Woodruff's line as the fence now standeth south 74° east 20 ch and 35 links to a corner of land formerly conveyed by said David Ross to ABRAHAM CLARK thence along said CLARK's line north $42^{\circ} 30'$ east 16 ch and 10 links to a rock for a corner; thence along said CLARK's line north $80^{\circ} 30'$ east 2 ch and 94 links . . . containing 140 acres. (Latter part of description runs the land to Rahway river adjoining Barnett's; Book L, page 872.)

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According to family tradition, Aaron Clark "went West to the Ohio Territory about 1788." The first document of record concerning Aaron Clark in the West is his entry in the first United States Census as a resident of Washington County, Pennsylvania. "Aron Clark, head of family; 3 Junior males; 3 females." The latter presumably are his wife Susannah and two infant daughters. The census-taking was not begun until August, 1790.

Aaron Clark seems to have been a man of enormous vitality and with fighting blood. According to family tradition, his name was on the muster roll on the frontier after the war; at the camp, where soldiers delight in displaying feats of skill and strength, Captain Aaron Clark would pick up the end of a heavy gun and turn it over, end over end, as fast as a man could walk. His companions were satisfied with lifting the heavy end of the big gun and letting it drop again on the ground.

In the Pennsylvania Archives (Sixth Series, Volume V, page 598) we find the following reference:

"AARON CLARKE, a private in the Washington County militia, received pay for 35 days service as a rifleman in the Third Company, belonging to the Fifth Battalion, of Washington County Militia, commanded by Capt. Arthur Scott, which company was in the United States Service on the frontiers of Washington County, Pennsylvania, by order of the county lieutenant of said county, commencing August 25th and ending September 29th, 1792." "AARON CLARK, No. 54, on duty by Scudder Hart, September 29, 1792."

Among the old deeds on record in the Recorder's Office in Washington, Pennsylvania, are the following:

ABRAHAM CLARK

June 28, 1791. George McCormack sold to Aaron Clarke, both residents of Washington county, Pennsylvania, a tract of land on Chartiers creek, at the point where the Mingo Path crosses Chartiers creek. The township is not given; consideration 145 pounds. (Book 1-J, page 146.)

October 6, 1801. Aaron Clarke, and Susanna Clarke, his wife, of Washington county, sold to John Simon, a tract of land on Chartiers creek; township not given; consideration \$900.

January 19, 1808. Aaron Clark and Susannah Clark, his wife, of Washington county, sold to Robert Finley, a tract of 66 acres one rood and six perches on Chartiers creek, near Washington, Pennsylvania; consideration \$463. (Book 1-U, page 193.) This tract of land was bought December 30, 1794, by Aaron Clark from Reason Pumphrey and Sophia, his wife. (Book 1-L, page 63.)

September 20, 1809. Aaron Clark and Susannah Clark, his wife, of Washington county, sold to Joseph Wherry, 74 acres, 38 perches in one tract, and 10 acres, three roods and 15 perches in another, located in Washington county; consideration \$590. (Book 1-V, page 119.) The exact location of this land is not given, but from the descriptions it must have been near the present site of the City of Washington, Pennsylvania.

June 22, 1837. Josiah Clark, executor, sold to James Kelly 172 acres. (Book 3-B, page 216.)

When Aaron Clark determined to establish a home for his family in the "Ohio Territory," he was no doubt somewhat influenced in his choice of a location by the accounts of General Washington's journey west in 1784. As early as 1767 Washington had taken up a tract of about 3000 acres in Western Pennsylvania, on Chartiers Creek, southwest of Pittsburg. As a veteran of the French and Indian War Washington had filed on the land, had it surveyed and marked by blazed trees, and "improved" it by the building of a cabin. Subsequently Washington secured for the land a patent which he sup-

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posed made him its owner. But squatters entering that fertile territory had settled on his rich holdings on Chartiers Creek, and Washington's Virginia title was utterly disregarded on the Pennsylvania frontier. It required a decision of the Supreme Court (holding *nisi prius* Court at Washington, Pennsylvania, in October, 1786) to put George Washington in possession of these lands in Western Pennsylvania which he held under military rights; and to enable him to dispossess the squatters.

"Having found it indispensably necessary to visit my Landed property West of the Apalacheon Mountains," wrote Washington in his diary, "I did, on the first day of this month [September, 1784], set out on my journey."

With two companions and an "equipage" consisting of three servants and six horses, Washington made his long-planned trip from Mount Vernon to the Western frontier, going by way of the Potomac, Cumberland Pass, and Braddock's Road to the Chartiers Creek lands, and returning by the Monongahela River and Culpepper Court House.

Immediately on his return from this strenuous journey, which occupied thirty-five days in the saddle, Washington outlined a plan for the commercial union of the Great Lakes and the "Ohio Territory"—that is, the territory lying along the Ohio River and its tributaries in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania—by way of the Monongahela and Potomac Rivers. Regardless of the interests of the Philadelphia merchants, Washington favored the Monongahela-Potomac route as the most practicable between the Ohio Territory and the Atlantic. It is to be deplored

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that Washington's plan of improving the Potomac, and connecting it by canals with the Ohio, was not carried out. Other interests prevailed rather than Washington's sole interest, which was the greatest good to the greatest number, and the Western hegira from New Jersey and the New England States to the Ohio took a more direct though much more difficult route.

Chartiers Creek was spelled "Shurtees Creek" by Washington in his diary, from which we may conclude that it was so pronounced by the people there at the time. The text of Washington's diary of September, 1784, is reproduced by Arthur B. Hullbert in his unique and interesting book, "Washington and the West."

A search among the old record books at the Court House in Warren, Trumbull County, Ohio, has revealed the fact that Aaron Clark and his family for a time resided at Youngstown; that Aaron Clark was engaged in business there, and operated mills located on a tract of 268 acres of land, which Aaron Clark sold in October, 1804, for the sum of \$2,200.

Youngstown, Ohio, is no longer in Trumbull County. Two other counties have been carved out of the original area of Trumbull, and Youngstown is now the county seat of Mahoning County. Youngstown, on the Mahoning River, was not more than about sixty miles from Aaron's lands on Chartiers Creek, in Pennsylvania. The location of Youngstown on the Mahoning River, a tributary of the Ohio, made it a place of easy access to the landowners near Washington and Pittsburg. Youngstown was on the direct route from East Jersey to the Ohio Territory.

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It is not unlikely that Aaron Clark made the journey many times.

A deed signed by Aaron Clark and Susanna Clark, wife of Aaron Clark, has been found among the old deed records of Trumbull County, Ohio. (Book A, page 169.) "August 27, 1803. Aaron Clark and Susanna his wife conveyed to William Rayen 22 acres; S 2, T 2, R 4, part of lot No. 29."

Another conveyance of land made by Aaron Clark is shown in the records of the Common Pleas Record Book (Vol. 3, page 126), Trumbull County Docket 206, as follows:

ESTATE OF AARON CLARK.

March 23, 1814. Aaron Clark by Executor to Eli Baldwin (Vol. 227). 268 acres, Section 2, Township 2, Range 4.

JOSIAH CLARK Ex'r of AARON CLARK, deceased: To all people to whom these presents shall come, greetings: Whereas Aaron Clark, late of the County of Washington, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and formerly of Youngstown in the County of Trumbull and State of Ohio, deceased, in his lifetime, to wit: on the 4 day of October, 1804, entered into articles of agreement with one John Beard then of the County of Beaver and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the hands and seals of the said Aaron and said John, Whereby the said Aaron covenanted to sell to the said John 268 acres of land situated in said Youngstown, being the place whereon the said Aaron dwelt, together with the mills, houses and other appurtenances thereto belonging, for which the said John thereby covenanted to pay said Aaron the sum of \$2,200 with interest thereon from the date of said articles annually, to be paid \$600 on the first day of March next and \$938.16 on Dec. 1, 1805; of the remainder being \$661.84, three years from date of said articles. And the said Aaron thereby covenanted with said John to make to the said John or his assigns a good and authentic deed of title to said land in fee simple as said John should have paid the first payments on said

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land as in said articles specified and given said Aaron satisfactory security for last payment; and whereas the said John Beard afterwards died without having performed said covenants on his part leaving his sons John and Hugh, and Samuel Adams, Executors of his last will and testament, and whereas the said Aaron Clark hath since died without having conveyed said lands to John Beard leaving his son Josiah Clark Executor, and also leaving minor heirs, and whereas the said Josiah Clark Ex'r of foresaid Aaron Clark at the last April term of the Common Pleas for said Trumbull County recovered judgement in said Court against the executors of said John Beard, deceased, for the sum of \$2467.84 damages and costs of said court, which sum of damages was on the 24 day of June, 1813, by agreement of parties reduced to the sum of \$1435.41 being the amount due on said articles of agreement on which judgement execution issued directed to the Sheriff of Said Trumbull County and was by him levied on all the right title claim and interest which the said John Beard, deceased, had at the time of his death sold premises known as Mill lot to Eli Baldwin of Boardman in said Trumbull County being particularly described as follows. (These records were burned in 1895.)

In 1807, the name of Aaron Clark again appears on the record books of Essex County, New Jersey. It was probably soon after the death of his mother, Sarah, the Signer's widow, in 1804, that Aaron brought suit in the New Jersey Courts to determine the title to the lands which Judge Thomas Clark in his will, dated September 10, 1765, had bequeathed to his two grandsons. There is nothing in the will of the Signer to indicate that he considered as his own the lands which Aaron and Thomas had inherited from their grandfather. When Aaron (and probably Thomas) "went West" after the war, there was apparently no thought in their minds of the Statute of Limitations, by the operation of which, automatically, their lands would be merged in the estate

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of their father, and would, by the probate of his will, pass from the possession of themselves and their heirs forever. But that is what happened.

The following decision of the New Jersey Court appears to have been based not at all on the merits of the case, nor on the intentions of the two testators, Judge Thomas Clark, and his son and executor, Abraham Clark. As a ruling on the Statute of Limitations the case is still cited in the New Jersey Courts.

ESSEX COURT, April, 1807.

DEN ex dem. CLARK against LANE [LAING].

Possession of land by a father, and using it as his own, after his son arrives at full age, is adverse possession within the Statute of Limitations.

The lessor of the plaintiff, AARON CLARK, claimed the premises in question, under the will of his grandfather; the will devising the land to Aaron Clark, described the land thus: "All the land I purchased from Andrew Hampton, adjoining the lands of Terril." It turned out in evidence that the lands which old THOMAS CLARK purchased from Hampton lay on both sides of a road; that part lay on the Southwest side of the road adjoining the lands of Terril; the remaining part lay on the Northwest side of the road, directly opposite, adjoining other lands of the said THOMAS CLARK; and that the residue of the lands he had given to ABRAHAM CLARK, Esq., his son, the father of Aaron; that on the death of old Thomas Clark, nearly forty years ago, ABRAHAM CLARK went immediately into possession of all the land; his son Aaron, the lessor of the plaintiff, being a minor about 19 or 20 years of age, living with his father; that on Aaron's coming of age he sold the land on the southwest side of the road adjoining the land of Terril; that Abraham Clark, the father, kept possession of the land on the northeast side of the road, and treated it as his own; and at his death about twelve or thirteen years ago, devised it to his son Abraham, under whom the defendant holds. It was contended on the part

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of the lessor of the plaintiff, Aaron Clark, that all the land which his grandfather purchased of Hampton was devised to him; that a road running through it separating one part from another, made no difference; that the word "all" denoted the intent of the testator to give him *all* the land purchased from Hampton.

Mr. M'Whorter and Mr. S. H. Williamson, the defendant's counsel, moved for a nonsuit on two grounds.

1st. That on a fair construction of the words of the will, the land only on the side of the road adjoining the lands of Terril, could be intended to be devised to the lessor of the plaintiff (a question of intent.)

2nd. That the action was barred by the Statute of Limitations, which as it is applied to this case was only twenty years, and that defendant and those under whom he claimed title, had been in the uninterrupted possession for nearly forty years.

Mr. Ogden and Mr. Chetwood answered: That the possession of Abraham Clark, Esq., on the death of old Thomas Clark, he being the guardian of his son, must be considered in law as the possession of the lessor of the plaintiff, he being an infant living with his father; the father keeping possession after he became of age, could not be construed as holding adversely, but must be viewed as holding by the consent and approbation of his son; and not tortiously, particularly as he had a lawful possession at the beginning; which lawful possession must be considered as continuing.

J. Pennington held:

It appears fully evident that Abraham Clark did not hold the land on the northeast side of the road as guardian of his son; but from the death of his father, as his own; he considered it as not comprehended in the land devised to Aaron his son, but that his father's will in that respect embraced only the lands on the southwest side of the road adjoining the land of Terril; he occupied and in all respects treated the land in question as his own, and used it with the other part of his farm, to which it was adjoining, and finally devised it away at his death. I therefore consider the possession of Abraham Clark and those holding under him as adverse possession; this being upwards of thirty years uninterrupted, the defendant must be protected by

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the Statute of Limitations. The case is too bald to admit of further litigation; the plaintiff must be called.

Nonsuit. (New Jersey Law Reports, Vol. II, page 397.)

It would be interesting to look over the original pleadings in the lower court in this case of Aaron Clark *vs.* Lane (or Laing), but no trace of them can be found. The references to Aaron's grandfather as "*old* Thomas Clark" would seem to indicate that in the original pleadings in the lower court Aaron included a statement of facts in regard to the strip of woodland lying on the Rahway River which Judge Thomas Clark had left in his will to *young* Thomas Clark, his other grandson. There has been no deed or other record found by which the location of this land may be determined.

In recent times (from 1904 to 1911) Thomas A. Sperry, the trading-stamp millionaire, who died about 1916, bought several of the big farms lying along both banks of the Rahway River in Union County (formerly Essex County), and merged the farms in a tract of about 500 acres, where he conducted a stock farm. All of the old landmarks, such as houses, fences, and some of the roads, were obliterated, and new fences and roads constructed by Sperry, which makes it almost impossible now to trace the old farm lines. We may never know the exact location of the lands "adjoining upon Raway River," which Judge Thomas Clark devised to his grandson Captain Thomas Clark; the old boundaries are completely effaced, and no deeds are of record to determine the locality of these lands by any survey or description.

When the law-suit of Aaron Clark against Laing

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was dismissed, the party then in adverse possession of Captain Thomas Clark's land, under the same ruling, no doubt acquired title that may not now be questioned.

Why the will of Abraham Clark (Signer) was not admitted to probate until January 18, 1800, more than five years after his death; and why Andrew Hetfield, one of the executors named in the will, did not serve, are problems which have not yet been solved. Certain it is that the Signer, neither in his will nor in any other document, ever laid claim to the lands of Aaron and Thomas which they inherited from their grandfather. It would seem, however, that the heirs of Aaron and Thomas had lost their inheritance through the operation of the very laws designed to protect the minor, the innocent purchaser, the absentee land owner.

In the Pennsylvania Archives (Vol. XXVI, page 544), among the Warrantees of land in Washington County, Pennsylvania, we find: "Thomas Clark 100 acres Nov. 17, 1785." But it is impossible to identify this Thomas Clark as the son of the Signer. Captain Thomas Clark died in 1789. Diligent search has been made in Trenton among the Essex County and Middlesex County records, brought there from Perth Amboy, Burlington, and other places where deeds and wills were recorded in the years after the Revolutionary War; but this search has failed to discover any will of Captain Thomas Clark. Nor is there any will of his on file in Washington County, Pennsylvania, although there is reason to believe that Captain Thomas Clark "went West" with his brother Aaron after the War.

ABRAHAM CLARK

The Will of Aaron Clark is on file in Washington, Pennsylvania, dated August 4th, 1811; admitted to probate January 4th, 1812. Following is a copy of the Will:

In the Name of God Amen. I AARON CLARK of the County of Washington in the State of Pennsylvania, being of sound mind and perfect memory do this fourth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & eleven, make and ordain this to be my last Will and Testament in manner and form following viz: First I do order and direct that my just debts & funeral expences be paid out of my movable estate Item I give unto my well beloved wife SUSANNAH one feather bed & bedding over and above her right of dower, Item I give unto my son WINANS the whole of the money and other property I have let him have prior to this date and no more Item I give unto my son HATFIELD the whole of the money and other property I have let him have and the money I have paid for him at sundry times Item I give and devise unto my four daughters, ELIZABETH, HANNAH, ABIGAIL & SUSANNAH and to their heirs and assigns forever all the real property or estate I now hold in the County aforesaid, to be by them sold whenever a majority of them may think proper, and the money arising from such sale to be divided amongst them, after allowing the three last mentioned eighty dollars each, out of the whole sum, to make them equal to my daughter Elizabeth and I do further order and direct that my two youngest daughters be raised and scholed out of my personal estate, Item I give devise and bequeath unto my son JOSIAH the remainder of my estate be it where it may. And I do ordain and appoint my son Josiah & Matthew Dill Executors to this my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first herein above written. And whereas my three sons Winans, Hatfield & Josiah have wrought with and for me since they have been of age yet I am well assured and can declare with certainty that I am not indebted to *either* of them in the least note the words either of was interlined before signing

AARON CLARK

ABRAHAM CLARK

Signed, sealed, & delivered in the presence off Note I forgot to mention that my three youngest daughters are to have each a bed and bedding and all the table linnen.....

Signed sealed and executed in the presence of us John Marshal Wm. Chapman Purnal Hickman

January 4th, 1812, Letters Testamentary with Copy of Will and probate annexed were issued to JOSIAH CLARK, an Executor within named, who on same day was duly sworn.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,

WASHINGTON COUNTY, SS:—

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original last will and testament of AARON CLARK, deceased, as the same remains on file and is of record in Will Book, Volume 2, page 334, in the Register's Office for the State and County aforesaid.

In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal at Washington, Penn'a, this 3rd day of May, A. D. 1922.

JOHN AIKEN

Register.

In Washington County, Pennsylvania, there is no trace of the grave of Captain Aaron Clark. The "Old Graveyard" in West Spruce Alley has been abandoned for more than thirty years. A century ago the leading people of that day were interred there, and when the "New" Washington Cemetery was opened, in 1854, a great many bodies were removed from the "Old Graveyard" to the new cemetery. This continued for several years. The "Old Graveyard" is now a playground on one side, and on the other side it is used as a dumping ground for that locality. Many of the old gravestones were carried away for pavements. When it was found by the leading citizens that nothing could be done to prevent the

ABRAHAM CLARK

desecration, a number of them got together and copied all the inscriptions they could find, and these records of the "Old Graveyard" of Washington County are now preserved with the papers of the Washington County Historical Society. Among them may be found the following:

"No. 74—Sacred to the memory of SUSANNA CLARK, wife of AARON CLARK who departed this life April 26, 1821. Aged 63."

The name of Aaron Clark is not on the list, but it is supposed that he was buried in the same cemetery. About 1915, when the "Old Graveyard" was turned into a playground the borough engineer made a survey and located each grave by exact measurements, so that it might be found at any future time. Each headstone inscription then remaining was copied and numbered to correspond with its location on the Survey. The name of Susanna Clark is Number 74 on this list.

The latest document of record concerning Aaron Clark is dated June 22, 1837. His son, and executor, Josiah Clark, then a resident of Pope County, Arkansas, as executor of his father's estate, sold 172 acres of land on Chartiers Creek, in Washington County, Pennsylvania; lands which had been purchased by Aaron Clark on December 30, 1794. The deed reads as follows:

Deed from Josiah Clark to James Kelly, Washington County, Penn'a. Acknowledged June 22, 1837, before John Birekhead a justice of the peace in Pope County, Arkansas. Recorded in Washington County, Pennsylvania, April 10, 1843, in Deed Book 3 B, page 216.

ABRAHAM CLARK

This Indenture made and entered into by and between JOSIAH CLARK and ELIZABETH CLARK his wife of the County of Pope and State of Arkansas of the first part and James Kelley of the County of Washington and State of Pennsylvania of the second part, on the twenty-second day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, Witnesseth, That for and in consideration of the sum of Two Thousand dollars good and lawful money of the United States to us in hand paid by the said James Kelley of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, by us of the first part, and him the said James Kelley of the second his heirs and assigns forever exonerated and discharged from any further payment thereof, do by these presents bargain and sell, convey and confirm unto the said James Kelley, his heirs and assigns forever, all our right title interest and Claim unto the following described tract or parcel of land to wit: Being and lying in the County of Washington and State of Pennsylvania containing about one hundred and Seventy-two acres more or less the same being bounded by land owned by the heirs of Thomas Stokley, deceased, and the heirs of Joseph Wherry, deceased, and the heirs of Robert Hamilton, deceased, and others, the said land lying on the waters of Chartiers Creek; it being a part of the original tract of land that Aron Clark purchased from Reason Pumphry and the same having descended to us as the heirs of said Aron Clark, to have and to hold the said described land together with the appurtenances thereunto belonging to his own use and benefit, and the said parties of the first part covenant and agree to and with the said James Kelley, the party of the second, that until the ensealing and acknowledging hereof, that they have never sold nor transferred their said interest in the above described premises and they do further covenant and agree that they hereunto give and quitclaim to all and singular their interests in the above and foregoing described tract or parcel of land, as fully as is in them to transfer and the said Josiah Clark and Elizabeth his wife for themselves, their heirs and assigns do agree to warrant unto the said James Kelley, all their interest in and to the said described tract or parcel of land for the Consideration above specified.

In Testimony whereof we the said party of the first part,

ABRAHAM CLARK

have hereunto set our hands and seals this day and date first above written.

Witnesses Present:

W. S. H. Truett

Andrew Scott.

JOSIAH CLARK

ELIZABETH CLARK

Among the records of old deeds on file at Russellville, Pope County, Arkansas, are the following:

March 18, 1835, Josiah Clark gave a Bill of Sale to Laban C. Howell, on a certain boiler and engine of a Mill that had burned in February of that year.

August 7, 1836, Josiah Clark and Elizabeth his wife made a Warranty Deed to Gran. Hill Tuvantt to 46 acres of land.

April 13, 1839, Josiah Clark and Elizabeth Clark made a Warranty Deed to one Bennett H. Martin—a piece of land containing 80 acres.

List of the ten children of Hon. Abraham Clark and Sarah, his wife, copied June 28, 1922, from the Hatfield MS. in the possession of the New York Historical Society:

1. Aaron Clark. b. 1750; m. Susan, dau. of Benj. Winans.
2. Thomas Clark. b. 1753; m. ——— & died May 13, 1789.
3. Abraham Clark. b. 1755, and died July 26, 1758.
4. Hannah Clark. b. ———
5. Andrew Clark. b. ———
6. Cavalier Clark. b. 1763, and died Nov. 4, 1764.
7. Sarah Clark. b. ———, and was married to Gen. Clarkson Edgar.
8. Elizabeth Clark. b. ———, and died in her 14th year.
9. Abigail Clark. b. 1773, and was married to Thomas Salter.
10. Abraham Clark, 2nd. b. 1767; m. Dec. 29, 1791, Lydia Griffith.

ABRAHAM CLARK

In regard to the children of Abraham Clark, the Signer, it would seem as if the existence, identity, and names of eight have been established beyond any question.

Five children were named by Abraham Clark in his will: Hannah Miller, Sarah Edgar, Abigail Clark, Aaron Clark, and Dr. Abraham Clark. The graves of two sons are marked by tombstones still standing in the family plot in Rahway Cemetery: Captain Thomas Clark, who died May 13, in the thirty-seventh year of his age; and Cavalier, who died November 4, 1764, in his second year.

"One of my younger children I have lost," wrote Abraham Clark on October 26, 1776, in a letter to his friend Colonel Dayton. "Since my return" (from Congress at Philadelphia) "I have been indisposed . . . it is the most sickly season I have ever known." This child whom he had lost in 1776 was probably the daughter called Elizabeth in the Hatfield MS.

In addition to these eight children, a son named "Abraham," who died July 26, 1758, in his third year, is mentioned in the Hatfield MS. His tombstone has probably crumbled away.

Also there is a tradition that one son "went West" and was never heard of again. Was this the fifth child, called "Andrew" in the Hatfield MS.?

In a letter dated November 24, 1779, the Signer, Abraham Clark, writing from Elizabethtown, addressed Governor Livingston at Mount Holly, on the subject of "Trading with the Enemy." At the end of the letter he said:

"This will be delivered to your Excellency by my son." [And in a postscript he added:] "Just upon concluding my letter I

ABRAHAM CLARK

received the enclosed paper, signed by Justice Miller and Mr. Marsh, sent to me to forward to your Excellency, as they knew my son was going to Mount Holly. . . ."

This is one of the very few references to any member of his own family that we have found in Abraham Clark's official letters; and in this letter it will be noticed that he does not mention the name of his son. Was it Captain Aaron? Was it Captain Thomas who was on furlough? Or was it the missing Andrew?

There is a tradition that one of the sons of the Signer married in Philadelphia against the wishes of his father. Was this Andrew? There is a tradition that one of the sons "went West and was never heard from." Was this Andrew?

Is there any other authority for a son called "Andrew" than the mention of his name on the list of Dr. Hatfield? The birth date of the Andrew Clark whose war record is furnished by the Adjutant General of New Jersey, with a memorandum of age and birthplace, would make it quite possible for him to have been the fifth child of the Signer. Is there any reason to believe that he was not? Following is the War Record of Andrew Clark:

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, TRENTON.

It is certified that the records of this office show that ANDREW CLARK served as Private, Captain Thomas Mulford's Company, Colonel Samuel Potter's First Regiment, Essex County New Jersey Militia, 1778; enlisted as Private, Captain Daniel Baldwin's Company, Colonel Matthias Ogden's First Regiment, New Jersey Continental Line, May 7, 1778, for nine months; joined the Regiment, May 30, 1778; promoted Sergeant, mustered as

ABRAHAM CLARK

Private, Artillery, in August; discharged March 1, 1779,—during the Revolutionary War.

Born at Elizabethtown, Essex County, New Jersey. Age given as nineteen years in 1778, making birth year 1759. Described as being five feet eight inches in height, and as having dark complexion and blue eyes.

FREDERICK GILKYSON
The Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT.
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, June 14, 1922.

There are no records on file in this office of Captain Mulford's 1st Regiment, Essex County, nor does it appear from the records of this office that a man named ANDREW CLARK served as a commissioned officer in the War of the Revolution.

The records show, however, that one Andrew Clark served in that war as a private in Capt. Daniel Baldwin's Company, also designated Lieut. Colonel Brearley's Company, 1st New Jersey Regiment, commanded by Col. Matthias Ogden. He enlisted May 30, 1778, for nine months and was discharged March 1, 1779. On the company muster rolls from June, 1778, to January, 1779, inclusive, he was reported "with the Artillery."

ROBERT C. DAVIS,
Acting The Adjutant General.

Respectfully returned to Mrs. Jerome A. Hart, San Francisco.

The third child of the Signer was probably a son called Abraham, who died in his third or fourth year, on July 26, 1758. At the time when Dr. Hatfield was writing his MS. there was very probably still standing a tombstone which marked the grave of this child. But, if so, the stone has crumbled and disappeared, for now no trace of it remains.

The headstone of little Cavalier, another son who died in infancy, still stands. It is probable that this

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child was named for Cavalier Jouet, at one time a close friend and neighbor of the Abraham Clark family. Cavalier Jouet's first wife was Abigail Hatfield. When she died, leaving four sons, Cavalier Jouet married Mary Hampton, daughter of Abraham Clark's near neighbor, Jonathan Hampton. (On the authority of Rev. Wm. Hall in the New York "Genealogical and Biographical Record," Vol. XIX, page 151.)

Hannah, the eldest daughter of the Signer, married General Melyn Miller. There is no record of any child born to Hannah, and the exact date of her marriage is not known. On the deed record book of Essex County, August 16, 1786, appear the names of Melyn Miller and Mrs. Hannah Miller:

Aug. 16, 1786. Melyn Miller of Elizabethtown and Hannah his wife conveyed to John Blanchard of same place, dwelling house and tract of land in Elizabethtown, beginning at N.W. corner of land of John Chetwood, Esq., th. S. 15 degrees E. 7 chains to land of John DeHart, Esq., th. S. 58 degrees W. 3 ch & 52 links, th S. 65 degrees W. 8 ch 42 links to the road; th N 24 degrees 40' W. 4 ch 6 links to another road; th N 38 degrees W 1 ch 55 links across said road to corner of land late of James Garthwaite dec'd; th N 11 degrees 30' W 8 ch 94 links to John Stites land, th N 14 degrees 40' W 1 ch 88 links to John Hunts . . . containing at least 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres. Consideration, £500.

Witnesses: Samuel Bonnell, Lewis Littell. Acknowledged 19 May, 1795, by Melyn Miller and Mrs. Hannah Miller, wife of Melyn Miller. (Book B, page 295.)

March 20, 1786. Jeremiah Garthwaite of Elizabethtown and Elizabeth his wife to Melyn Miller of same place; tract where Garthwaite now lives, in Elizabethtown, beginning at N.W. corner of John Chetwood's land, same as above. (Book B, page 308.)

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In 1784. Melyn Miller and Moses Miller to Joseph Sturges.
(Book of Mortgages B, page 62.)

May 3, 1857, in a deed to Robert Clark, Charity B. Clark (wife of Job Clark), daughter of John Mulford, conveyed the land which her father purchased from Hannah Miller in 1808; 13 14/100 acres. (Union County Book of Deeds 1, page 217.) The original conveyance from Hannah Miller to John Mulford in 1808 does not appear of record.

Sarah Edgar, the second daughter mentioned by Abraham Clark in his will, was married December 1, 1792, to General Clarkson Edgar, of Woodbridge, New Jersey. They are said to have had a daughter, Henrietta. Their names appear frequently in the record books of Essex County.

Clarkson Edgar was a grandson of Thomas Edgar of Woodbridge, who died in 1759, leaving three sons and one daughter. William Edgar (third son of Thomas) was born in 1724; married Experience Clarkson March 31, 1751; he died in 1776, leaving seven children, one of whom was Clarkson Edgar. (New Jersey "Biographical Encyclopedia.")

May 5, 1806. Clarkson Edgar of the Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey, and Sarah Edgar, his wife, conveyed 15 4/10 acres to William Laing (the same purchaser who bought the homestead of Abraham Clark, the Signer, from Dr. Abraham Clark, May 8, 1805); consideration, \$693. This was the land devised to his daughter, Sarah Edgar, by the will of her father, Abraham Clark, deceased. Witnesses, Moses Jaques and Thomas Salter. (Recorded May 28, 1813, in Book V, page 183.)

January 11, 1796. Joseph Stanbery of Westfield and Susanna his wife, conveyed to Oliver Marten of Bridgetown, Middlesex County, New Jersey, a tract of land purchased by said Joseph Stanbery from Clarkson Edgar, March 14, 1778. (Book G, page 392.)

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In an advertisement for a lost horse, dated Trenton, October 31, 1780, appeared the following: "Whoever takes up and delivers the said horse to Mr. Bergen at Trenton, David Olsen at Princeton, or Major Clarkson Edgar at New Brunswick, shall be reasonably rewarded by Benjamin Manning." (New Jersey Archives, Vol. V, page 82.)

Abigail, the youngest child of Abraham Clark, was born in 1773, and died October 25, 1811, in her thirty-eighth year. On October 28, 1802, Abigail married Thomas Salter (1764-1853) of Elizabethtown, as his second wife. They had two children, one of whom died in the first year of his age, and the other, Louisa A. W. Salter, born in 1805, died unmarried after she had passed her seventy-fifth year. (Stillwell's "Salter Genealogy," page 6.) The names of Thomas and Abigail Salter appear on the deed record books as follows:

June 4, 1807. Thomas Salter and Abigail his wife conveyed to Charles H. Hughes, yeoman, Consideration, \$537.50; Lot. 3; 14 and 4/10 acres, being said Abigail Salter's share in land devised by Abraham Clark, Esq'r, deceased, to his three daughters. (Book N, page 660.)

May 25, 1850. Charles H. Hughes conveyed same to Amos Clark, Jr., 14 4/10 acres; consideration \$1080. (Book K 7, page 409.)

August 17, 1808. Thomas Eddy and Hannah, his wife, of the Borough of Elizabeth, conveyed lands to Thomas Salter, of the same place; consideration, \$12,500. (Book O, page 17.)

February 7, 1811. William Shute of Elizabethtown, merchant, and Ann, his wife, conveyed lands to Thomas Salter of the same place; consideration, \$4,338.37 1/2. (Book R, page 652.)

ABRAHAM CLARK

April 8, 1806. Paul Malherbe & Latvillerie his wife, consideration \$10650; conveyed lands near Wheat Sheaf Tavern to Thomas Salter of Borough Elizabeth formerly of New York City, which John Terrill conveyed Sept. 13, 1798; land adjoining the road from Elizabeth to Philadelphia which was part of homestead of Ephraim Terrill, deceased, devised to said John by his father; excepting four acres thereof which was devised to his daughter Mary Thomas; (which was conveyed to John by deed Sept. 15, 1795). Also excepting a parcel thereof which formerly belonged to Daniel Tooker, which was conveyed to John Terrill by Robinson Thomas July 4, 1793. Also that tract which Robinson Thomas and Eliza his wife conveyed to Malherbe March 11, 1799, which Ephraim Terrill formerly owned. (Book L, page 767.)

March 23, 1811. Thomas Salter and Abby his wife, of Essex County, conveyed to Peter Kean . . . land purchased by Thomas Salter from Thomas Eddy, Esq'r, August 19, 1808; 24 acres of land on Morris Turnpike. (Book S, page 156.)

Dr. Abraham Clark, youngest son of the Signer, was born at Rahway, New Jersey, in October, 1767. He died July 27 (or 28), 1854, at Kinderhook, New York, where he was buried. There is no record of any will, or administration of his estate.

In a letter written by Dr. Abraham Clark, dated Kinderhook, New York, March 4, 1846, he says:

"Retrospection carries me back to the early settlement of my own neighborhood, two and a half miles west of Elizabeth on the farm of my ancestors, now owned by others. My grandfather Thomas Clark was an alderman, a judge, and I believe custodian of the king's arms, as many muskets and cartouche boxes with the letters 'G. R.' on their covers remained in the house until used by our patriots. He left one son Abraham, well-known as a Signer of the Declaration of Independence. On

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our Western boundary was my great-uncle, Abraham Clark, called the 'Captain of the Troop.' He left but one son, who died a bachelor. My grandfather had two brothers: Abraham mentioned before; James, a highly respectable farmer in Union Township; and a sister Mrs. Day. These two last lived to a great age."

Very shortly after the death of the Signer, the name of Doctor Abraham Clark appeared on the books of record in Essex County, New Jersey, as a "merchant of New York," and various large sums of money were raised by mortgage on lands formerly unincumbered.

Following are some of the records taken from the Essex County books of mortgages and deeds:

September 28, 1795. All that dwelling house and land which the said Elias Boudinot lately purchased of Jonathan Dayton, Esq'r, in which he lived and in which the said Elias now lives in Elizabethtown opposite Jonathan Morrell's, and which the said Elias by deed of Indenture conveyed to the said Abraham Clark, which said premises with the appurtenances are mortgaged by Abraham Clark of Elizabethtown, practitioner of Physic, to Elias Boudinot, Esq'r, of the same place, Counsellor at law, for the payment of the sum of One Thousand and Fifty pounds current money of New York, agreeable to the conditions of the two several Bonds for that sum bearing the same date as the Mortgage, which is dated September 28, 1795, acknowledged before Joseph Pollard. . . . Mortgage cancelled March 31, 1800. (Book D, page 40.)

August 4, 1801. Abraham Clark, Merchant of New York City, to John Griffith and Nathaniel C. Griffith of New York City, and bonded to Elias Boudinot of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the further sum of \$1200 to secure payment. Then follows a description of the home farm: "Said lands now in possession of Sarah Clark, widow of said Abraham Clark, the father and mother of aforesaid Abraham." (Book F, page 34.)

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April 2, 1796. Dr. Abraham Clark and Lydia his wife executed a deed conveying to Joseph Wheaton and Sally Wheaton, of Westfield, the house and lot where Dr. Abraham Clark formerly lived, which he purchased from Jonathan Miller, Stephen Crane, and Joseph Mecker, on the road from Elizabeth-town to Westfield. (Book B, page 117.)

April 9, 1792. Jonathan Miller and Jemima, his wife, of the Borough of Elizabeth, conveyed to Abraham Clark, Jun'r, of the same place; consideration £250; land late of William Shotwell, on the road from Elizabeth to Springfield, 3 acres 10 rods. (Book D, page 238.)

April 1, 1833. Dr. Abraham Clark and Lydia, his wife, who made their acknowledgments at Kinderhook, N. Y., conveyed two lots in Newark, New Jersey, to "Enoch Bolles of Town of New Ark"; consideration, \$10,000. (Book M, 3, page 465.)

A description of the Abraham Clark home farm by metes and bounds is contained in the executor's deed of sale, dated March 8, 1805, and recorded in Book K, page 39, as follows:

March 8, 1805. Dr. Abraham Clark of Newark and Lydia his wife to William Laing, Yeoman, Township of Woodbridge; consideration, 1598 pounds 8 shillings & 9 pence current money of N. Y.

Abraham Clark (the Signer) his will dated May 15, 1793, devised to same the above Abraham, on easterly side of road from Wheat Sheaf Tavern, the plantation of said Abraham Clark, dec'd, including the Dwelling 38 acres and 14 sq. rds. Beginning at White Oak Tree Stump standing on East side of said road, running as the compass now points along said road N 45° W 3 ch & 62 l to the southernmost corner of land formerly belonging to Lewis Mulford, dec'd, now belonging to John DeHart; thence with said DeHart's line N 54° 30' E 7 ch & 59 l to line of land formerly belonging to Jonathan Hampton, Esq., dec'd, now belonging to said John DeHart; thence with said DeHart's line S 21° 11' E 19 ch & 90 l to where formerly stood a maple tree, being southw'ly corner of said DeHart's

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land; thence with the said DeHart's line N $84^{\circ} 40'$ E 3 ch & 10 l to the N.W. corner of land formerly belonging to Ephraim Terrill Esq., dec'd, now belonging to Monsieur Malherbe; thence with his line S. $10^{\circ} 40'$ E 5 ch & 5 l to the southeasternmost corner of the hereby granted tract; thence with said Malherbe's line S $48^{\circ} 20'$ W 10 ch 66 l, thence along said Malherbe's line S $85^{\circ} 11'$ W 5 ch 90 l to said Malherbe's northwest corner by the aforesaid road on east side thereof, it being also a corner of the hereby granted tract, thence north westerly & northerly along the easterly edge of said road as it runs, to the beginning.

2nd tract: adjoining the westernmost side of said road opposite the first tract above described 14 acres 15 sq. rds, beginning at the intersection of the road leading to Bound Brook with the first road above mentioned, running with the north east edge of said Bound Brook road $60^{\circ} 20'$ west 17 ch to a stake for the southernmost corner of a tract of land which Abraham Clark Esq., dec'd, in his will devised to his three daughters Hannah Miller, Sarah Edgar, and Abigail Clark, thence along their line.

Also salt meadow in Rahway meadow $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres Bounded north west by ditch south west by land formerly Ross's; on other sides by the Creek that runs from the Southerly side of Dr. Isaac Morse's plantation (formerly plantation of Joseph Morse, dec'd,) into Piles Creek, being same meadow conveyed to said Abraham Clark, Esq., by Samuel Ross Jun'r February 20, 1767.

September, 1805. Dr. Abraham Clark, acting executor of Abraham Clark, Esq., deceased, was discharged. (Book A, page 451.)

In the reminiscences of Thomas M. Burt, reproduced in "A History of Old Kinderhook" by the Rev. Edward Collier, D.D. (page 492), Mr. Burt says:

"I spent a part of my leisure time with a boy of my own age whose uncle had a shoe-store near us. This store was then the rendezvous of a coterie of venerable gentlemen. Hon. Francis

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Silvester, who represented the district in the first Congress (1789-'91), was one of these ancients; Dr. Abraham Clark, father-in-law of Dr. Beekman, our village capitalist; Mr. Edgar Laing, a retired New York merchant; Mr. James Shaw, once Sheriff of New York; and Dr. John M. Pruyn, the youngest of the group. Every afternoon these gentlemen met for gossip. They were all Whigs in politics, and their stately greeting as they rose from their chairs, doffed their hats, and courteously bowed when the ex-President rode by, as he often did, was a fine exhibition of respect for an ex-official, and a protest against his Democratic creed."

The ex-President referred to was probably Martin Van Buren, who, on his retirement from public life, lived for a number of years at Kinderhook, and died there in 1862.

The following account of the life of Dr. Abraham Clark is given in the New Jersey "Biographical Encyclopedia" (Galaxy Publishing Company, Philadelphia, 1876):

"After studying medicine under the preceptorship of Dr. John Griffith (afterward his father-in-law), Dr. Clark graduated in the University of Pennsylvania, under Professors Shippen, Wistar, and Rush, and subsequently was one of the original eleven who formed the District Medical Society of the County of Essex. He practiced medicine first in Elizabeth; thence removed to New York; and finally settled in Newark, where he practiced medicine until 1830, when he retired from business and removed to Kinderhook. There he lived at the home of his daughter until his death. He remembered vividly the shifts of his family during the war, to avoid the pursuit of the enemy and the destruction of their homestead; and two of his older brothers were in the revolutionary service and eventually became prisoners of war—one in the New York Sugar House, the other in the Prison-ship *Jersey*. . . . Dr. J. H. Clark says: 'He was a man of medium height, slender, of nervous manner, scrupulously neat in his attire, and always gentlemanly in his

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manners. He wore invariably a light-colored cloth frock-coat and a ruffled shirt. In his latter days in Newark he was invariably followed by a small black and white spaniel."

It was on December 29, 1791, that Dr. Abraham Clark married Lydia, daughter of Dr. John Griffith of Newark. They had one daughter, Eliza, born December, 1792, who married, as his second wife, Dr. John Pruyn Beekman. Eliza died November 17, 1875. The genealogy of the Pruyn family may be found in Volume XIX of the New York "Genealogical and Biographical Record."

Dr. John P. Beekman (1788-1861) practiced medicine for about twenty years only. He was a director of the first bank in Kinderhook, established in 1838. He died October 16, 1861, and was buried at Kinderhook. He left two children, Catherine Beekman and Anna Rosalie Beekman; a widow, Eliza (Clark); and a brother Thomas Beekman, residing in Ulster County, New York. In 1884, the two grand-daughters of Dr. Abraham Clark, Catherine and Anna Rosalie, lived at 264 Fourth Avenue, New York City. Catherine Beekman, born in 1822, died unmarried. Her will was admitted to probate January 23, 1890. Anna Rosalie Beekman, born in 1824, died unmarried, October 5, 1908. Her will disposing of about \$44,000 in cash legacies, and the remainder to charities, was admitted to probate March 4, 1909.

This was the end of the line of Dr. Abraham Clark, youngest son of the Signer.

III

*Ancient Wills and Records of Richard
Clark and Certain Other Members
of the Abraham Clark Family and
Their Connections.*

III

*Ancient Wills and Records of Richard Clark
and Certain Other Members of the Abraham
Clark Family and Their Connections.*

TO THE descendants of the old New Jersey families it is natural that the ancient wills of their ancestors should prove of absorbing interest. Relationships are set forth; intermarriages between families are made known; children and grandchildren are enumerated even to the third and fourth generation; boundaries of lands are defined; ancient feuds are hinted at; neighbors are named; inventories give an intimate glimpse into the life of the family.

But not alone to their descendants have the ancient wills of the New Jersey worthies proved absorbing. The quaint language interests the casual reader; the strange point of view from which the testator often regards his heirs sheds a curious light on human nature; the intrinsic oddities of the faded parchments repay one for the reading. In short, these venerable testaments give much food for thought.

Richard Clark, who came from Southold, Long Island, to Elizabethtown about 1678, was the first of Abraham Clark's ancestors who settled in New

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Jersey. His will, dated April 1, 1697, was admitted to probate in the City of New York April 15, and recorded in Essex County, New Jersey, May 3, 1697. (Deed Book F, page 281.) It is reproduced here in the quaint English diction of William and Mary's and Queen Anne's time, and with the Latin phrases and circumlocutions then customary in testamentary documents:

In the Name of God Amen, I RICHARD CLARKE of Elizabeth Towne In East Jersey being verry Sick & weake but of perfect Memory do make & ordaine this to bee my Last Will & Testament In manner & forme followeing,

First I give & bequeath my precious Soule to God which gave it, And my body to the Earth to bee buried In A Decent Manner,

Secondly I give & bequeath to my deare & Loveing wife ELIZABETH CLARKE all & singular my moveable Estate for her to dispose of as she shall think fitt, thirdly I give & bequeath to my Eldest Sone RICHARD CLARKE the towne Lott of Land Adjoyning to the Dwelling house he now lives In containing Eight Acres more or less, he paying In consideration thereof to my Son JOHN CLARKE the Sume of five pounds Currant monie to bee payd by my Sone Richard or his Assignee after my Decease within two Months—Next I give & bequeath to my sayd Sone RICHARD CLARKE the one halfe of A parcel of Land Lying Situate & Adjoyning to the wood Land of John Little the whole containing twenty Acres more or Less,—

Next I give & bequeath to my Seven Sons (viz) RICHARD CLARKE, JOHN CLARKE, JOSHUA CLARKE, SAMUEL CLARKE, EPHRAIM CLARKE, THOMAS CLARKE, & BENJAMIN CLARKE, All & singular A parcell of Land containing one hundred fifty two Acres more or Less, bounded East by John Toe, South by James Haines, South East by Charles Tucker and other parts to Land unsurveyed to bee Equally Divided amongst my Seven Sonns aforesayd share & share alike.

Item I give & bequeath to my Sone RICHARD CLARKE six Acres of meadow Land Lyeing in the Towne Creek as Also six Acres more in the great meadow.

ABRAHAM CLARK

Item I also give & Confirme to my Sone JOHN CLARKE the sayd parcell of Land for which I have given him A deed of gift, Also two Acres of meadow Lying In Stoffills Creeke

Item I give & bequeath to my Sonns Joshua & Ephraim Clarke the Lott of Land formerly called or known by the Name of Aaron Lott on which Joshuas house Now stands to bee Devided Equally betweene them both, Joshua haveing his halfe on that side the Lott on which his house now stands.

Item I give & bequeath to my foure sonns (viz) JOSHUA CLARKE, EPHRAIM CLARKE, THOMAS CLARKE & BENJAMIN CLARKE A Certaine parcell of Land Comonly known or called by ye Name of ye blind Ridge containing Eightie five Acres more or Less, to bee Equally Devided Amongst my said foure Sonns share & share alike.

Item I give & bequeath to my Sonns THOMAS CLARKE & BENJAMIN CLARKE A Certaine piece of meadow Land on Woodroffs Creeke Adjoyning to Henry Norris Land to bee Equally devided Amongst them both.

Item I give & bequeath to my Sonns JOSHUA CLARKE & SAMUEL CLARKE A Certaine peice of meadow Land Lying on the South side of Coll Townlys meadow, As Also foure Acres of meadow Land Lyeing In Stoffills Creeke to bee Equally devided amongst them both.

Item I give & bequeath to my Sonn EPHRAIM CLARKE two Acres of meadow Lyeing In the sayd Creeke.

Item I give & bequeath to my Sonn THOMAS CLARKE A Certaine Lott of Land Comonly knowne or called by ye Name of Curwithee Lott as also part of ye Lott of Land Called Roger Lott, beginning at ye upper End Joyning to George Ross & to End at ye Corner of ye Lott on which my dwelling house now stands I also give & bequeath to my said Sonn THOMAS A Certaine peice of meadow Land Lying on Raway Meadow by ye great River.

Item I give & bequeath to my Sonn BENJAMIN CLARKE the Dwelling house with ye barne orchard Stables &c: In which I now Live As Also ye ground thereunto belonging Comonly Called or known by ye Name of Grays poynte, as Also ye other part of Rodger Lott, And Also a certaine peice of meadow con-

ABRAHAM CLARK

taining six Acres more or less Adjoyning to Joseph Willson & George Ross & on ye great River.

Item I give & bequeath to my Sonn SAMUEL CLARKE ye other half of that Land Lying Near & Adjoyning to John Littles Land ye whole containing twenty Acres more or Less ye other half of which I have given to my Sonn RICHARD before mentioned

Item I give & bequeath to my Sonn SAMUELL CLARKE A Certaine peice of ground Adjoyning to Daniel Ross on ye west side & my Sonn RICHARD to ye Eastward & on ye South to ye highway.

Item Whereas I gave & bequeathed to my foure Sonns (as before is mentioned) JOSHUA CLARKE, EPHRAIM CLARKE, THOMAS CLARKE & BENJAMIN CLARKE, ye certaine peice of Land Commonly known or called by ye Name of ye Blind Ridge to be Equally shared amongst them foure, my will is now that my Sonn SAMUEL have an Equall part of ye said Blind Ridge, And that ye same be divided into five parts to be divided amongst my said five Sonns JOSHUA EPHRAIM, THOMAS, BENJAMIN & SAMUEL share & share alike.

Item I make confirme & Appoint my true & loveing wife ELIZABETH CLARKE and my Eldest Sonn RICHARD to be Executrix & Executor of this my Last will & Testament, And whereas my Sonns THOMAS & BENJAMIN CLARKE are both under age In case they should Dye or Either of them before they arrive to ye Age of one & twenty years my will & intent is that his or their proportion of ye before mentioned Estate be Equally divided amongst ye surviveing brothers.

I doe hereby Ratyfie & Allow this to be my Last Will and Testament, Revoking & Dissannulling All former Wills by me made. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand & Affixt my Seale this first day of Aprill In the yeare of Christ one thousand six hundred Ninety & Seven.

RICHARD CLARKE

Signed Sealed & Delivered

In the presence of us

WILLIAM JANEWAY

JOHN GLASBROOKE

MARY BAKER



In the old part of Rabway Cemetery, on St. George's Avenue, facing east, stand the headstones marking the graves of Abraham Clark and Sarah, his wife—facing the highway where the tide of traffic between New York and Philadelphia whirls by unceasingly, day after day.

Lately the headstones have been straightened to permit of a granite base being placed under them. Through more than a century and a quarter of winter snows and summer suns the old red sandstone monuments have stood, their quaint inscriptions still quite legible. About nine feet east of the Signer's headstone stands, in good condition, the ancient headstone over the grave of his father, Judge Thomas Clark, who died September 11, 1765. In the same row, southward, following a vacant space where doubtless stood other monuments long since crumbled and fallen, are the headstones of "Cavalier, ye son of Abraham and Sarah junrs," and of Captain Abraham Clark, the Signer's uncle, "who departed this life Sept. 26th, 1765, in the 63rd year of his age."

South of the old cedar tree, in the same row with the headstones of Abraham and Sarah, stands the monument of their son, inscribed: "In memory of Capt. Thomas Clark who died May the 13th, 1780, in the 37th year of his age."

ABRAHAM CLARK

CITY OF NEW YORKE SS

To All to whome these presents shall come or may In any wise concerne, William Merrett Esqr Mayor of the City of New Yorke Sendeth Greeting Know yee that on ye day of ye date hereof personally came before me William Janeway John Glasbrooke & Mary Baker persons unto me well known & worthy of good faith & Credit who being all Sworne upon ye holy Evangelists of Almighty God Did Solemnly Depose Declare & Testifie that they saw RICHARD CLARKE sign Seale Deliver & publish the Annexed will as his last Will & Testament And that at ye same time he was of sound & perfect minde & memory to ye best of their knowledge and understanding.

In Testimony of the truth whereof I have hereunto subscribed my Name & caused the Seale of the said City to be Affixed this fifteenth day of April In the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred & ninety Seven Annoq. Regn. Will. tertii Nunc Angl &c Nono.

WILLIAM MERRETT

Per order of the Mayor
William Sharpas, Clk

To all Xtian People to whom these presents shall come or whom these present Letters Testimonial shall or may concerne ye Governour and Proprietors of ye Province of East New Jersey send Greeting. Know Ye that ye Last Will & testament of RICHARD CLARKE late of Elizabeth Towne In ye County of Essex deceased and hereunto Annexed was tendered proved & approved And the said RICHARD CLARKE having whilst he lived Divers goods & Chattels to be Administered of within ye said Province, And ye Right of Disposition & granting ye Administration thereof belonging unto us

Now further Know Ye that we Have Admitted, and by these presents Do Admit the Administration of All & singular ye goods Chattells & Credits of ye said RICHARD CLARKE Deceased unto Elizabeth Clarke & Richard Clarke Executrix & Executor In ye Above Last Will & testament therein Named truly & faithfully to Administer of the same, And a full true & perfect Inventory and Appraizement of All & singular ye goods Chattells & Credits of ye sayd Deceased to make & ye same to Exhibit Into our

ABRAHAM CLARK

Secretarys office of ye said Province on or before ye third Day of November Next Ensueing And Also Administer thereof According to Law. And further do make or cause to be made a true & Just Accont of their said Administration on or before ye fourth day of May which shall be In ye year of our Lord 1698.

Given under ye seale of ye said Province ye third day of May Anno Domini 1697. In ye Ninth year of ye Raigne of our soveraigne Lord William ye Third over England, King.

AND: HAMILTON

The inventory of Richard Clark's estate was taken and an appraisement made by Jonathan Ogden and Andrew Hampton. Among the items which went to make up the "sume totall" of £159 5s 12d were the following:

Two oxen.....	£ 7 00 00
Five cows.....	15 00 00
Three cattell of three years old	6 00 00
Two horses.....	6 00 00
Two mares.....	5 00 00
17 old sheep and ewe lambs.....	9 00 00
One yearling steer.....	00 15 00
Two bibles and one other booke.....	00 8 00
One sword and belt.....	00 10 00
One negro woman with a child.....	32 00 00
Five swine.....	3 10 00

Thomas Clark of Elizabethtown, yeoman, the Signer's grandfather, sixth son of Richard Clark, died at the age of about thirty-two years. His will was admitted to probate August 22, 1711. Copied by the Secretary of State's office from Volume 5 of Unrecorded Wills, page 114, it reads as follows:

In ye Name of God Amen ye Eighth Day of January In ye Eighth year of ye Reign of our Sovereign Lady Anne. By ye

ABRAHAM CLARK

Grace of God Queen of Great Brittain. Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and nine (alias) one thousand seven hundred and ten, I THOMAS CLARKE of Elizabeth Town in ye County of Essex, And Province of New Jersey yeoman, being Sick, and weak in body, but of sound and perfect Memory, thanks be to Almighty God therefor do make this my last Will and Testament In manner and form following: That is to say

First I give and bequeathe my soul and spirit to Almighty God who Gave it, and my Body to ye Dust from whence it was taken, to Receive a Decent Christian Burial, and as Touching ye Distribution of that worldly and Temporall Estate, Wch it has pleased God to bestow upon me, I Dispose of ye same as followeth. That is to say

First I will that all such Debts as I shall Justly owe at my Decease, shall be well and Truly paid out of my Moveable Estate.

Item I Give and Bequeathe unto my Very Loving and Dearly Beloved wife HANNAH all my whole Moveable Estate, of what Nature or kinds, or In whose hands, Custody, or possession soever ye same, or any part thereof at my Decease may or shall be found, To have, and to hold ye same moveable Estate unto ye said HANNAH my wife, forever.

And Touching ye Disposition of my Lands, Tenements, and hereditaments, I Give, Grant, Devise, and bequeathe thereof, and therefore in such manner and forme as followeth, that is to say,

First I Give, Grant, Devise, and Bequeathe unto my Eldest sonn, THOMAS CLARKE, my new Dwelling House & Barne and homsted of Land to ye same belonging, containing Twenty three acres of Land, more or less (and adjoining to ye farm Land of Andrew Hamton in Ellizabeth Town aforesd) To have and to hold ye said house, barne, & Homsted of Land with all manner of Liberties, Priviledges, and advantages thereunto belonging, with their, and every of their appurtenances unto him ye said Thomas Clarke my sonn, his heirs and assigns forever, To his and their proper use benefit, and behoof forever, he ye said Thomas Clarke paying ye Sum of Ten pounds Curr't Money or equivalent to my youngest son Daniel Clarke.

ABRAHAM CLARKE

Item I Give, Grant, Devise, and bequeathe unto ABRAHAM CLARKE, my second sonn, all that my Tract of Land (adjoining to ye Lands of Richard Clarke and Benjamin Clarke) Containing fifty acres of land, be it more or less whereof my two fields are a part, To have and To hold ye said Tract of Land, with all manner of Liberties Priviledges & Advantages thereunto belonging, with their and Every of their appurtenances unto him ye said Abraham Clarke my sonn, his heirs and assigns forever, to his and their only proper use, benefit, and behoof forever, he ye said Abraham Clarke, paying unto James Clarke my third sonn, ye sum of five pounds Curr't Money or Equivalent.

Item I Give, Grant, Devise, and bequeathe unto JAMES CLARKE, my third sonn, all my meadows that are lying and being anywhere or wheresoever, in Elizabethtown Rahway Meadows, To have and to hold the same Meadows, with all manner of Liberties, Priviledges and advantages thereunto belonging, with their, and Every of their appurtenances unto him ye said James Clarke my sonn, his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I Give, Grant, Devise, and bequeathe unto DANIEL CLARKE my youngest sonn, all my meadows that are Lying and being anywhere, or wheresoever, in Elizabeth Towne Great Meadows, To have and To hold ye same Meadows, with all manner of Liberties priviledges and advantages thereunto belonging, with their and Every of their appurtenances unto him ye said Daniel Clarke my sonn his heirs and assigns forever, to his and their only proper use, Benefit, and behoof forever. Provided alwayes neverthelesse, & it is ye true Intent and meaning of these presents, and my will is hereby further Declared to be, that if any of my sonns above mentioned shall happen to Dye without Issue of their bodys lawfully begotton, That then, and In Such Case his, part of my estate of Inheritance (as above Devised) So hapning to dye without such issue as aforesd shall fall and Revert to his next Surviving brother, In ye same manner as Devised and bequeathed to him (So Dyeing as aforesd) in this my last will and Testament, as above and that then also his part So Surviving as aforesd shall Return and fall in like manner to his next surviving Brother, And So of all ye devises as above made, anything in these presents Contained, to ye Contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

ABRAHAM CLARK

Item I make, and Ordain My Dearly beloved wife Hannah and my Very trusty friend Andrew Hamton, to be the Executrix, and Executor of this my last will and Testament. And I Do hereby Revoke and utterly make void all former Wills and Testaments by me in any wise heretofore made and Declared. And I do Now Declare this to be my last will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I ye said Thomas Clarke have herunto set my hand and seal ye Day and Year first herein above written.

Signed and Sealed, published
and Declared by ye Testator
to be his last will & Testament
In the presence of us witnesses

SAMUEL WHITEHEAD

ISAAC BONNELL

JEREMIAH BUN

his
THOMAS X CLARKE
marke

Memorandum that on ye 22 day of August Anno Domini 1711 at Eliz:town in ye County of Essex in ye Province of New Jersey; Sam'l Whitehead Isaac Bunnell & Jeremiah Bun ye three hereunto subscribing witnesses came before me Thomas Gordon Surrogate appointed for taking ye probate of wills &c and being solemnly sworn upon ye holy Evangelists of Almighty God Did Declare that they & each of them saw ye above named Testator Thomas Clark Sign, Seale publish & declare ye above written Instrument to be his Last Will and Testament and that at the time he was of sound mind & perfect memory to the best of their understanding.

August the 22 Anno Domini 1711 Hannah Clarke & Andrew Hamton Extors of ye above last will & Testament of Thomas Clarke came before me Thomas Gordon Surrogate appointed for taking ye probate of Wills and took their oaths as Exe'rs thereof.

Jurat Anno Et die Supra de Coram me

THOMAS GORDON.

Captain Abraham Clark, uncle of the Signer, died intestate. His widow Sarah resigned her right of administration to Benjamin Marsh, who was the

A B R A H A M C L A R K

husband of Phebe, daughter of James Clark. The estate of Captain Abraham Clark was not small, as the bond was fixed at £500. Abraham Clark, the Signer, appeared as witness on October 19, 1765, when the renunciation of the widow Sarah was filed, and Benjamin Marsh qualified as administrator. (Recorded in Liber H, pages 540 and 480.) No inventory of the estate of Captain Abraham Clark can now be found. The renunciation of Sarah reads as follows:

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE PROVINCE OF NEW JERSEY OR
HIS DEPUTY, AT PERTH AMBOY:

SIR: As my husband ABRAHAM CLARK late of Elizabeth Town deceased died intestate, the Right of Administration I am advised belongs to me, which for Sundry reasons I have, and Do hereby resign to Benjamin Marsh of sd Elizabeth Town and desire that Letters may be granted him for that purpose.

Witness my hand at Elizabeth Town this 19th day of October 1765.

Signed by SARAH CLARK
widow of ABRAHAM CLARK
in the presence of
ABRA CLARK

her
SARAH X CLARK
Mark

The will of Ezekiel Clark, leaving £30 to his niece, Sarah Clark Morse, wife of Andrew Elston of Rahway, and the remainder of his estate to her children and to the children of his sister, Zepporah Scudder, was proved April 14, 1792. The land of Ezekiel Clark, lying west of the Abraham Clark home plantation, is mentioned in the Signer's will.

Sarah Clark (sister of Ezekiel Clark) married Amos Morse July 17, 1765. She died May 2, 1766, leaving a daughter, Sarah Clark Morse, who married Andrew

ABRAHAM CLARK

Elston of Rahway, May 30, 1781. Amos Morse married as his second wife, December 21, 1766, Susannah Winans, daughter of Jacob. The inscriptions on their tombstones, which are in Rahway Cemetery next adjoining the grave of Captain Abraham Clark on the north, read as follows:

Sarah wife of Amos Morse, jun., d. May 2, 1766; age 23.

Amos Morse, Esq., d. Sept. 2, 1824; age 82.

Susanna, relict of Amos Morse, Esq., d. Nov. 18, 1829; age 90.

The children of James Clark (whose will was drawn in April, 1796, and proved December 6, 1796) evidently did not agree in regard to the administration of his estate. In the Orphan's Court records for the Spring term of 1800 (Book A, pages 194, 205), in the suit of Samuel Meeker and Mary his wife vs. John Clark and Noah Clark, executors of James Clark, the Court ordered an accounting within thirty days. The case was continued in the Supreme Court of New Jersey after the death of Noah Clark. Following is the text of James Clark's will:

In the Name of God Amen, the Seventh Day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven Hundred & ninety Six I JAMES CLARK of the County of Essex in the State of New Jersey, Yeoman, being in a Pretty Good State of Health, and in my right sound mind & disposing memory, Thanks Be Given unto God for the same and Calling to mind and Duly Considering the Mortality of my Body And Knowing that it is appointed for Man once to Die, and the time when very uncertain, Do make this my Last Will & Testament. Principally & first of all, I give & Recommend my Soul unto the Hands of God who Gave it. My Body I Commit to the Earth, to be Buried in a Christian like and Decent Manner at the Discretion of my Executors. And as touching such worldly Estate Wherewith it

ABRAHAM CLARK

hath pleased God to bless me in this Life, I Give, Devise & Dispose of in the following Manner Viz:

First I order that all my Just Debts and funeral Expences be paid out of my Moveable Estate, Then I Give, Devise & Bequeath to my son NOAH CLARK, to him his Heirs & Assigns forever the following Parcels or Tracts of Lands with the Tenements and Appurtenances, thereunto belonging, Viz Thirty Acres of Land Adjoining the Land of my sd son Noah whereon he now lives lying on the South East Side thereof, Binding north West, Part by my said son Noah & Part by Land of Stephen Woodruff, North by the Road that Leads by Joseph Halseys, And Southerly by the Road that Runs by my said Son Noahs House, And to Extend so far South east ward so that a line Parrallel to the northeast bounds thereof, May make the Thirty Acres, Also five Acres of Land lying on the Southwest side of the Road that Runs by Joseph Halseys, And to Bind North West by the above Devised thirty Acres, and southeast by Land of Robert French and to Extend so far southwest that a line parallel to the Road will make the said five acres. Also a Certain piece of Land lying on the first mountain Containing about Sixty Acres which I purchased of Nathaniel Norris, Excepting a Certain Piece thereof which I have Given my Son JOHN CLARK a Deed of Gift for, Also the one equal half part of all my Salt Meadow lying in the Great Meadows And all the Lands & premises which I have given to my sd Son Noah Clark shall be unto him and to his Heirs and Assigns forever, Then I Give to my son JOHN CLARK During the Term of his natural life, my Homestead Plantation, being bounded East by Rahway river, north by Philip Denman, West by a Road & south by a lot of Land which was Given to Robert French by his Father and by Land formerly the Property of John Srites, But it is my Will and I order that my said son JOHN CLARK shall not use, Cut, or Dispose of any more of the Timber and wood that is on my sd Homestead Plantation, more than for the use of the said Place & to maintain his own fire And at the Decease of my sd Son John Clark I Give my sd Homestead Plantation to his son my Grandson JAMES CLARK During the Term of his natural life But he shall not use Cut or Dispose of any more of the Wood and Timber that is on the sd Plantation

ABRAHAM CLARK

than for the use of sd Plantation and for to maintain his own fire, And at his Decease that is at the Decease of my sd Grandson James Clark I Give Devise and Bequeath my sd Plantation with each and every of the appurtenances thereunto belonging to the oldest Son that my sd Grandson James Clark shall then have living to him his Heirs and Assigns forever.

Third, I Give Devise and Bequeath to my two Grandsons BENJAMIN MARSH & JAMES MARSH a Certain piece of Land lying for four Acres bounded East by the Road North by Anderson and Robert French West by my own Land and South by my Grandson JOHN CLARK to be equally Divided Between them two and shall be unto them their Heirs and Assigns forever All the Rest Residue and Remainder of my Lands and Salt Meadows not above in this my sd Will Disposed of I Give Devise and Bequeath to my son JOHN CLARK to him his Heirs and Assigns forever. Then I Give to my beloved wife ANNA the sum of Seventy Pounds to be Paid unto her within six months next ensuing after my Decease by my Executors, out of my moveable Estate, Also one years Provision for herself of all necessary Eatables if she lives one year after my Decease, also my Sorrel Horse which I Bought of Townsley, My Riding Chair and all the Utensils thereunto belonging a good cow the Bed and furniture the Six Chairs and the Table which she brought to me at our Marriage which Gifts shall be to my said wife and to her heirs & Assigns forever. Also, I Give to my sd wife During the time she Remains my Widow that is till her Remarriage the use of the Eastermost Room in my new Dwelling house for herself to live in, but if my sd wife will not live in the sd Room herself then her right to it shall cease. Also I Give to my sd wife, as long as she Chooses to live in my house and remains my Widow, Pasture for one horse and Cow During the Season of Pasturing and Wintering for the said Horse & Cow and fire wood for to Maintain one fire for herself Also I Give to my sd wife During the Term of her natural life the use of my Negro Girl Dinah and after the Decease of my said wife I Give my sd negro Girl Dinah to my three Grandchildren BENJAMIN MARSH, JAMES MARSH & MARY WILLIS equally among them three. The above Gifts to my sd wife shall be in lieu of and in full for her right of Dower and Power of thirds of in and to my

ABRAHAM CLARK

Estate and not otherwise, Also I Give to my Daughter PHEBE MARSH, the use of one Hundred Pounds During the Term of her natural life to be Paid unto her yearly by my Exec'rs out of my moveable Estate and after the Decease of my said Daughter PHEBE MARSH I Give the said One Hundred Pounds to be equally Divided among all my Son JOHNS & NOAHS Children as may be then living, Then I Give to my Daughter MARY MEEKER the Sum of One Hundred Pounds to be paid unto her by my Exec's out of my Moveable Estate as they see she Stands in need thereof, And if my said Daughter MARY MEEKER should Die before the sd One Hundred Pounds has been all Paid unto her then the one equal half of what Remains of it shall go to my Grandson WILLIAM MEEKER and the other half to my Grandson JAMES CLARK, Then I Give to my Granddaughter MARY WILLIS the Sum of Ten Pounds to be Paid unto her by my Executors out of my moveable Estate. Then all the Remainder of my moveable Estate I Give to be equally Divided Between my two Sons JOHN CLARK & NOAH CLARK for their Trouble so they need not Charge my Estate any thing for their Trouble. And I do hereby Make, Ordain, Constitute and appoint my two sd sons JOHN CLARK and NOAH CLARK Executors of this my last Will & Testament And I do hereby Ratify allow and Confirm this and no other to be my last Will and Testament, And I do hereby Disannul and Disallow all and every other and former Wills by me at any time before this made.

In Witness whereof the sd Testator JAMES CLARK has hereunto set his hand and Seal the day and year herein first above written.

Signed, sealed, Published,
pronounced and Declared
by the said Testator James
Clark to be his Last Will &
Testament in the Presence
of

JAMES CLARK

KEZIAH SCUDDER
her
BETSY X STEWART
mark
WILLIAM COLES

ABRAHAM CLARK

William Coles & Keziah Scudder two of the Witnesses to the within will being duly sworn according to Law did depose and say that they saw James Clark the Testator therein named sign and seal the same and heard him Publish Pronounce and Declare the within writing to be his Last Will and Testament and that at the doing thereof the sd Testator was of sound and Disposing mind and memory as far as these Deponents Know and as they verily Believe & that Betsy Stewart the other Subscribing Evidence was present at the same time and subscribed the same as a Witness to the sd Will together with these Deponents in the Presence of the sd Testator.

Sworn the 6th day of December 1796 before me Alex'r C. McWhorter, Surr'g't for Essex.

The foregoing Will being proved Probate was Granted by his Excellency Rich'd Howell Esq'r unto John Clark and Noah Clark the Executors therein named. John Beatty, Reg'r. (Liber 35 of Wills, page 504.)

The will of another James Clark was proved October 4, 1794. In it the testator appoints as executor his "trusty and well Beloved friend Colonel Jedediah Swan, Esq'r, of the Scotch Plains." The text of the will follows (Liber 33, page 367):

In the name of God Amen this thirtieth day of August One thousand seven hundred and Ninety four I JAMES CLARK of the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, carpenter, being sick and weak of body but of sound and perfect mind and memory and understanding (thanks be to Almighty God therefore) Do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say first, principally I give and Bequeath my Immortal soul into the hands of Almighty God, who gave me my being, and my Body I commit to the earth to receive a decent Christian Burial at the discretion of my Executors in this my last will and Testament hereafter named &

ABRAHAM CLARK

appointed; and as touching such worldly & Temporal Estate as it hath pleased God to bestow on me I dispose of the same as followeth:

First my will is and I do hereby Ordain that all my debts such as I shall justly Owe at the Time of my death shall be well and truly paid.

Secondly I will and Bequeath unto my son Samuel Clark the sum of five pounds Lawful money of the State above said.

Thirdly I will and bequeath unto Easter Clark, borne of the body of Rebeckah Tucker, the sum of eight pounds, to be put out on Interest by the Executors of this my last Will and so to continue untill she shall arrive to the age of Eighteen years.

Fourth I will and bequeath unto my Daughter Sarah Clark one cow to be taken out of my personal Estate; and after that is taken Out I will and bequeath unto my Loving & well beloved wife Easter the one equal third part of all the rest of my personal Estate and the other two third parts of my personal Estate I will and bequeath unto my two Daughters Phebe Allen & Sarah Clark to be equally divided Between them.

Fifth, and as to my real estate, I first will and Bequeath unto my Daughter Sarah Clark the piece of Land which I bought of John Tucker lying on the front of the second mountain adjoining that place I sold to Jonathan Hand Osborn, to her and to her heirs and assigns forever to be in immediate possession of the same after my death (the piece says for Ten acres be the same more or less). And all the rest of my real estate I will and Bequeath the use of the same unto my beloved wife Easter as long as she remains my widow and no longer and after her marriage or death, I will & bequeath the whole of my real Estate (after Sarah's Ten Acres is taken off) unto Phebe Allen & Sarah Clark my two daughters, to them and their Heirs and Assigns forever to be equally divided between them.

Sixth I make Ordain Constitute and appoint my trusty and well Beloved friend Colonel Jedidiah Swan Esq'r of the Scotch Plains, County of Essex and State of New Jersey, my Executor of this my last will and testament, and I do revoke make void and nullify all former wills and Testaments by me in any manner of ways heretofore made, and I do hereby ratify and Confirm this to be my Last will and Testament and none other.

ABRAHAM CLARK

In testimony whereof I have to this my last will and Testament set my hand and fixed my seal the day and year first above written.

Signed Sealed published pronounced and delivered by the Testator to be his last will and Testament in the presence of us

JAMES CLARK

his

ELIAS X CLARK

mark

her

SARAH X CLARK

mark

DAVID OSBORN

The Orphan's Court records for April, 1795, show an accounting in the Estate of James Clark, deceased, and the following order of court:

"Ordered that Jedediah Swan, Executor of the last will of James Clark, sell the following lots of land: on 2nd Mountain 9 acres; and that which adjoins Green Brook $2\frac{3}{4}$ acres." (Book A, page 55.)

The will (proved in 1819) of Esther Clark, widow, of Scotch Plains, mentions her daughter Sarah Miller, and two grandsons, the sons of her daughter Sarah—John Marsh Miller and Samuel Clark Miller.

In the Scotch Plains Cemetery are the following tombstone inscriptions:

James Clark, d. Sept. 23, 1794; age 49.

Esther, wife of James Clark, d. Jan. 15, 1818; age 72.

Rachel, daughter of James and Esther Clark, d. May 10, 1772; age 3 weeks.

Sarah Willis, formerly Sarah Miller, daughter of James and Esther Clark, d. Sept. 8, 1842; age 65.

ABRAHAM CLARK

Jedediah Swan, Esq'r, d. June 16, 1812; age 76.

Phebe, wife of Jedediah Swan and daughter of Recompense Stanbery, Esq'r, d. Jan. 2, 1806; age 59.

The will of Daniel Clark, blacksmith, of the Borough of Elizabeth, in the County of Essex, was admitted to probate March 8, 1779. The text of the will follows:

In the Name of God Amen I DANIEL CLARK of the Borough of Elizabeth in the County of Essex and province of New Jersey Blacksmith do make this my last Will and Testament in the manner following.

Imprimis I give and bequeath unto my Wife Hannah and her Assigns all my Moveable Estate, my debts and funeral Charges being paid, and the use and Improvements of all my Lands & Tenements so long as she shall Continue my Widow.

Item I give and devise unto my Son BENJAMIN CLARK all that tract and parcel of Land that now lyes by Robert Mecker that I bought of John Crane, to him and his Heirs and Assigns for Ever.

Item I give and devise unto my Son JACOB CLARK all my Home Lott that I now live on unto him and his Heirs and Assigns for Ever. And I make and Ordain my said Wife Hannah & my Sons Benjamin Clark & Jacob Clark Executors of this my Will.

Witness whereof I the said Daniel Clark have to this my last Will and Testament Set my hand and Seal the 16th day of April in the Year of our Lord Christ 1761, and in the first Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God of Great Brittain France & Ireland.

DANIEL CLARK

Signed Sealed published and
Declared by the said Daniel
Clark as and for his Last
Will and Testament in the
presence of

JACOB DE HART
STEPHEN PASSEL
JONATHAN MEGIE

ABRAHAM CLARK

Sworn at Elizabeth Town the 8th day of March, 1779, before
ROB'T OGDEN Jun'r.

The foregoing Will being proved probate was granted by
his Excellency Governor Livingston unto Benjamin Clark and
Jacob Clark Executors. (Liber 21, page 48.)

Robert Clark, son of Joshua, was appointed one
of the appraisers of the estate of Abraham Clark,
Signer, immediately after the death of the widow
Sarah in June, 1804; his lands lay adjoining the
home plantation of the Signer, as mentioned in the
latter's will. Robert Clark was born in 1733 and
died February 16, 1811. His first wife, Elizabeth,
died May 19, 1790, aged 53 years. (Tombstone
Inscription Rahway Cemetery.) His will follows:

Forasmuch as it is appointed for all men once to die and the
time when very uncertain I ROBERT CLARK of the Township of
Rahway, County of Essex and State of New Jersey, being very
sick and weak in body, but of sound disposing mind and Memory,
Blessed be the name of the Lord for the same; Therefore I do
this Thirteenth day of February, in the Year of our Lord One
thousand Eight hundred and Eleven, make and publish these
presents as and for my last Will and Testament in manner and
form following.

Imprimis I do order in the first place that all my just debts
and funeral expenses, be fully paid by my Executors herein after
named, out of my moveable estate and land hereinafter directed
to be sold.

Item I do give, grant and devise unto my eldest son, Robert
Clark and to his heirs and Assigns forever; All that lot of wood-
land, which I purchased of ABRAHAM CLARK adjoining land of
the said Robert Clark and Jonathan Brown and binding on
Rahway River, Containing Sixteen Acres, be the same more or
less, I do also give grant and bequeath unto my said Son Robert
Clark all that lot of salt Meadow lying in the Rahway Meadows,
bounded by adjoining Meadow of my said son Robert Clark

ABRAHAM CLARK

and Half Bushel Creek, Containing Four Acres be the same more or less, to be and remain to him, his heirs and Assigns forever.

Item I do order and direct and it is my will in Consideration of the within devise and bequests of my said son Robert Clark, that he my said son Robert Clark, his Executors, Administrators, heirs or Assigns shall pay, or cause to be paid into the hands of my Executors, or the survivor of them, the sum of Fifty dollars lawful Money of the United States in Six Months After my decease to be applied by my Executors as part of my moveable estate as herein after directed.

Item I do give, grant and devise unto my son John Marsh Clark, his heirs and Assigns forever, Six Acres of woodland, being a part of a lot of woodland adjoining lands of Samuel Norris, dec'd, Jedediah Williams, Noah Norris and Jeremiah Girthwait, and is to be taken off adjoining the land of said Samuel Norris, dec'd, by a line parallel thereto so as to make the said Six Acres. I do also give and bequeath unto my said son John Marsh Clark, his heirs and Assigns forever, One equal half of that lot of salt Meadow which I purchased of Ezekiel Clark, situate in Rahway Meadow, adjoining the Upland of Anthony Morse Esq'r.

Item I do give, grant and devise unto my grandson Job Clark, son of my son Amos Clark deces'd, and to his heirs and Assigns forever, the one equal half of the remainder of my said wood lot adjoining lands of Samuel Norris, dec'd, Jedediah Williams, Noah Norris and Jeremiah Girthwait as aforesaid, Containing two Acres adjoining the six Acres which I have herein before given to my said son John Marsh Clark and the land of Jeremiah Girthwait aforesaid. I do also give grant and devise unto my said grandson Job Clark and to his heirs and Assigns forever all that lot of salt Meadow Adjoining Meadow of Amos Morse Esq'r, lying in Rahway Meadow. I do also give grant and devise unto my said grandson Job Clark all that lot of salt Meadow which I purchased of Jacob Winans lying in Rahway Meadow, Adjoining Meadow of Jonathan Oliver & Caleb Halsey.

Item I do give grant and devise unto my grand son Robert Clark son of my said son Amos Clark dec'd, and to his heirs

ABRAHAM CLARK

and assigns forever, All my homestead plantation, whereon I now live, lying on both sides of the road, all which lands and premises descended to me from my father Joshua Clark dec'd and is bounded by lands of Benjamin Mulford, Charles H. Hughes, John Marsh Clark, Nathaniel and Jedediah Williams. I do also give and bequeath unto my said grand son Robert Clark the one equal half of my said lot of Salt meadow purchased of Ezekiel Clark as aforesaid.

Item I do order and direct and it is my will in consideration of the within bequests of my said grandson Robert Clark, that he my said grandson Robert Clark, his heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, shall pay or cause to be paid into the hands of my Executors, or the survivor of them, the sum of Fifty Dollars, lawful Currant Money of the United States in Six Months after my decease, to be applied by my Executors as part of my moveable estate as herein after directed.

Item I do give, grant and devise unto my grand daughter Mary Clark daughter of my said son Amos Clark dec'd the amount of a legacy which was given and bequeathed unto my said grand daughter Mary Clark, by her father Amos Clark dec'd as specified in his last will and testament; and I do order my Executors to pay the amount of said sum in good and lawful money of the United States, unto my said grand daughter Mary Clark in Twelve months after my decease.

Item I do give, grant and devise unto my daughter Mary the wife of Moses Meeker, Twelve Acres of land lying on the road leading by John Mulford's, adjoining lands of David Williams and Benjamin Mulford; and I do order that the division line between the said lot given to my said daughter Mary and the lot given hereafter to Amos Clark and Mary Clark children of my son Joshua Clark dec'd begin one chain from the south corner of the land of said David Williams on said William's line towards the road leading by John Mulford's and from said designated spot, running across said land to the land of Benjamin Mulford, in such direction, as will make the said twelve Acres lying on the southerly side of said line & bounded as aforesaid, the same to be and remain unto my said daughter Mary, her heirs & assigns forever.

ABRAHAM CLARK

Item I do give grant and devise unto my daughter Susanna the wife of James Vreeland and to her heirs and assigns forever, all that lot of land lying on Stonyhill Containing Eight Acres and one half of land be the same more or less. I do also give and bequeath unto my said daughter Susanna a Lot of land adjoining the road leading from Barnet's Mill to Elias Williams' and adjoining land of the said James Vreeland and land of the children of John Oliver deceas'd, containing Seven Acres be the same more or less, to be and remain to her my said daughter Susanna, her heirs & assigns forever.

Item I do give, grant and devise unto my daughter Phebe, the wife of William Darby, all that Lot of land adjoining the road leading from Barnet's Mill to Elias Williams' adjoining land of Benjamin Cory, Aaron Ogden, Almand, and land belonging to the children of John Oliver dec'd Containing twenty One Acres be the same more or less, to be and remain to her my said daughter Phebe, her heirs and assigns forever.

Item I do give grant and devise unto my three daughters Mary the wife of Moses Meeker, Susanna the wife of James Vreeland and Phebe the wife of William Darby, all that Lot of salt Marsh, lying in the Great Meadows, bounded by Meadow of David S. Craig, John Potter and Woodruff's Creek, and to be and remain to each of them and to each of their heirs and assigns forever, as Tenants in common.

Item I do give grant and devise unto my youngest daughter named Betsey, daughter of Abigail Clark, widow of my said son Amos Clark deceased, and to her heirs and assigns forever, Ten Acres of Land, adjoining the Williams' farm road. And I do order the said Ten Acres to be set off by a line running from said road parallel with the line of Jedediah Williams and running to the land of Benjamin Mulford, to extend in width so far as to make the said Ten Acres, which lot will be bounded by land of said Jedediah and Benjamin Mulford and a lot of land herein after given to Amos Clark & Mary Clark, children of my son Joshua Clark dec'd and also by said road.

Item I do give grant and devise unto my two grand children Amos Clark and Mary Clark, children of my son Joshua Clark dec'd and to their heirs and assigns forever, all the overplus of that Tract of land, which I purchased of Jacob Winans, lying

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between the Mulford road and the Williams Farm road, as before mentioned, which shall remain after the said twelve acres, herein before given and bequeathed unto my said daughter Mary and the said Ten acres herein before given and bequeathed to my said daughter Betsey, shall be set off; and I do order and direct that the division between my said two grand children Amos Clark and Mary Clark be made in such manner, as that my said grandson Amos Clark shall have three quarters of said lot of land and my said grand daughter Mary Clark shall have one quarter of the said lot of land.

Item I do give grant and bequeath unto Abigail Clark formerly the widow of my son Amos Clark deceas'd now called my wife the full use and possession of all my homestead plantation during all the time she shall remain unmarried, all which land and premises I have herein before devised unto my said grand son Robert Clark, son of my son Amos Clark deceased as aforesaid. I do also give and grant unto the said Abigail Clark, widow of the said Amos Clark dec'd as aforesaid the liberty and priviledge to cut and take firewood sufficient for her use, yearly and every year during all the time she remains unmarried on my said homestead plantation given and bequeathed for her use as aforesaid, and also I do give and grant unto her the same priviledge to cut and take said firewood off the land herein before devised unto my said daughter Betsey as aforesaid. I do also give and bequeath unto the said Abigail Clark, widow of the said Amos Clark as aforesaid, one young bay mare and one young black horse, my best riding Chair and harness, one negro woman named Phillis, my largest sow and barrow, one hogshhead of Cider furthest in the chair house, one barrel Spirits, four Cows the first choice, and all my poultry of every kind. I do also give and bequeath unto the said Abigail Clark, as much of my household furniture as she chooses to take.

I do also give and bequeath all the grain already reaped and that standing on the ground in partnership, and also all my flax to be consumed in the family of the said Abigail Clark and the family of my said grand son Job Clark in the same manner as heretofore used. I do further order & direct that the said Abigail Clark and my said grand son Robert Clark make use

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of so much of my hay as will be sufficient to keep all their Cattle, horses and sheep through this season until grass. If there should be a deficiency of hay on my homestead plantation, I do order such deficiency to be supplied out of the barrack standing on the land devised to my said grandson and grand daughter Amos & Mary Clark children of my said son Joshua Clark deceased.

Item I do order and direct, in consideration of the within devise and bequests unto my said Grand son Robert Clark and the said Abigail Clark, that my said grand daughter Mary the daughter of my son Amos Clark dec'd and my daughter Betsey be supported and maintained in the family of the said Abigail Clark and in case of her decease, or marriage, by my said grand son Robert Clark, together with the use of the property given them herein before mentioned so long as they my said daughter & grand daughter, or either of them shall remain unmarried.

Item I do order and empower my Executors, or the Survivor of them to sell and convey a lot of land, containing one Acre, situate in Westfield, adjoining lands of Aaron Sayres, James Ross and Noah Swain, and to make, seal & execute a deed of conveyance proper for conveying a right in fee simple to the purchaser thereof, his or her assigns and heirs forever, and I do ratify and confirm such sale to be good and valid in law, and the money arising by such sale to be applied by my Executors as part of my moveable estate herein after directed.

Item If there should be a deficiency of moveable estate to discharge all my just debts & funeral expenses excepting such parts already given to the said Abigail Clark and also a deficiency to discharge the legacy herein specified I do order and direct that the said Abigail Clark and my said daughter Betsey, pay into the hands of my Executors the sum of Fifty Dollars between them, and that my said grand son Robert Clark, my said grand son Job Clark and also my two sons Robert Clark and John Marsh Clark, pay into the hands of my Executors, the sum of fifty Dollars each, if necessary, to enable the Executors to discharge said debts and legacy before mentioned. But if there should be no deficiency but an overplus of said moveable Estate, I do give & bequeath the sum of Fifty Dollars to be divided equally between all the children of my grand daughter Betsey

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the wife of Ephraim Sayre and the like sum of Fifty Dollars to be divided equally between all the children of my grand son Henderson Williams; and if any Overplus should still remain, I do order my Executors to pay the same at their discretion to any of my family relations.

Item If any of the within named persons should neglect or refuse to pay the several sums ordered by them to be paid into the hands of my Executors for the uses and purposes herein expressed, I do order and empower my Executors to sell and convey so much of the lands, or moveable estate respectively given and bequeathed to them as will be sufficient to raise the respective sums so refused to be paid & to make seal and execute all such deeds of Conveyance proper for conveying a right in fee simple to the purchaser, his or her heirs and assigns and I do ratify & confirm all such sales to be good and valid in law, and the money arising by such sales to be applied by my Executors in the manner above mentioned.

Item All the bequests herein mentioned unto the said Abigail Clark, widow of my said son Amos Clark dec'd I do intend shall be in lieu and in full recompence of all right of dower and power of thirds which she might claim in my whole estate and not otherwise.

Lastly I do nominate, constitute and appoint my said son John Marsh Clark and my said grand son Robert Clark Executors of this my last will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I have to this my last will & testament containing five sheets of paper, set my hand to first four sheets and my hand and seal to the fifth and last thereof the day and year first above written.

Signed sealed published and
declared by the above
named Robert Clark as and
for his last will and testa-
ment in the presence of us
the subscribers

JAMES M. CLARK
MOSES WILLIAMS
CHARLES H. HUGHES

his
ROBERT X CLARK
mark.

ABRAHAM CLARK

ESSEX COUNTY SS:

John Marsh Clark & Robert Clark the Executors in the within Will named being duly sworn did depose & say That the within writing contains the true last Will & Testament of Robert Clark the Testator therein named as far as they know and as they verily believe. That they will well & truly perform the same by paying first the Debts of s'd dec'd & then the legacies in sd Testament specified so far as the goods chattels & credits of s'd dec'd can thereunto extend. That they will make & exhibit into the Surrogates office of Essex a true and perfect Inventory of all & singular the sd goods chattels & credits of sd dec'd & render a just & true account when thereunto lawfully required.

Sworn March 2d 1811 before
me Th. T. Kinney, Surrog.
of Essex.

JOHN MARSH CLARK
ROBERT CLARK JUN

When Benjamin Winans drew his will in 1791, he named Abraham Clark a joint executor with his son Benjamin Winans, Jr. Susannah, daughter of Benjamin Winans, was the wife of Abraham Clark's son Aaron. Following is the will of Benjamin Winans, and the inventory made by Robert Clark:

In the name of God Amen I BENJAMIN WINANS of Elizabeth Town in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey being of sound & perfect Mind & Memory blessed be God therefor do this Twelvth Day of April in the year of Our Lord One Thousand seven Hundred and Ninety one, make and publish this my last will & Testament in manner following:

First I do order that all my just debts and funeral Expences be paid out of my Moveable Estate.

Item I give all my wearing Apparel equally between my sons JOSHUA and JOHN.

Item I give and devise unto my Eldest son JACOB and to his heirs and assigns forever the one equal Moiety of a tract of salt Meadow lying in Raway Salt Meadow formerly belonging to my Honowred Father JACOB WINANS deceased, and the other

ABRAHAM CLARK

Moiety of said Tract of salt meadow I give and devise unto my son AARON and to his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and devise unto my said son AARON and to his Heirs and Assigns forever all that southernmost part of my Homestead plantation whereon I now live to be devided from the northermost part thereof by beginning at the Road and running at three Rods distance from my old House between that and my new House in which I dwell on a Course West north west untill it comes in a direct range with a Ditch that runs part through my Plantation thence running to the East end of said Ditch and continuing westerly along the same to the westernmost end thereof, then continuing the same course to the Land of Jeremiah Clark together also with the Tenements and appurtenances unto the hereby devised southernmost part of my plantation belonging or appertaining the same to be and remain unto my said son AARON his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and devise unto my son JOHN and to his heirs & assigns forever all the Residue & Remainder of my homestead plantation lying north of the division above mentioned together with the tenements and appurtenances unto the said northermost part of my said Homestead plantation belonging or Appertaining. Also I give and devise unto my said son JOHN and to his Heirs and assigns forever the one equal Moiety of a Tract of Salt meadow lying below Traubles which I purchased of John Oliver containing by estimation about twelve acres and the other Moiety or half part of said Tract of Salt Meadow last mentioned I give and devise unto my son JOSHUA and to his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and devise unto my Grandson ELIAS WINANS son of my son JOH and to his Heirs and Assigns forever all that part of my Land lying in Raway that lieth on the southeast side and adjoining a Line beginning at the westernmost Corner of John Woods land of His Homestead plantation and running from thence southwest across my said Land to the land of Benjamin Shotwell. Also I give and devise unto my said Grandson ELIAS WINANS and to his Heirs and Assigns forever all that Tract of Land with the Tenements and Appurtenances which I purchased of Moses Hetfield whereon John Oliver now dwelleth. But my Will nevertheless is that my said Grandson Elias Winans

ABRAHAM CLARK

shall not have the use Occupancy or benefit of either of the devises to him above made untill after the decease of his father my said son Job unto whom I give the entire use possession and benefit thereof for and during his natural life.

Item I give and devise unto my son Joshua all that part of my late plantation lying in Raway which shall remain after my Grandson Elias's part above devised shall be taken therefrom in Order to enable my said son Joshua to make good his Covenants in a sale he hath already made of the said premises.

Item I give and devise unto my son BENJAMIN and to his Heirs and assigns forever all that my Tract of Salt Meadow Lying below Traubles which I purchased of Robert Little Containing by estimation about five acres.

Item I order and direct my Executors herein after named or the Survivor of them to grant sell and convey all my Land lying in the purchase made by John Symmes Esqr of Congress on the west side of the River Ohio adjoining the Miamie hereby giving and granting unto my said Executors or the Survivor of them full power and Authority to grant & Convey the same in Fee simple and the money arising from such sale I direct to be applied towards paying the legacys I have hereinafter bequeathed.

Item I give unto my wife ABIGAIL for so long as she shall remain my Widow the use of the Dwelling Room on the North Corner of my dwelling House and also the privilege of getting her firewood off the Land I have devised to my Grandson Elias anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary notwithstanding, and I do order that my son Aaron shall pasture, and my son John shall winter a Cow for my said Wife while she continues my widow as Aforesaid. Also I give unto my said wife a fifty Pound Bond from my son Joshua made payable or given to myself and my wife. Also I order that all the Goods brought to me by my wife at marriage shall be returned to her according to our Agreement before marriage.

Item I give and bequeath unto my son Benjamin the sum of Four Hundred pounds and to my Daughters Mary Meeker Susannah Clark and Sarah Haviland the sum of two hundred pounds to each, only that the Goods I have lent to my daughter Mary shall be her property and charged to her as part of the above Two hundred pounds.

ABRAHAM CLARK

Item I give to my Grandson Benjamin son of my son Jacob the sum of Ten pounds and to my son John's son Benjamin and to my son Aaron's son Benjamin a three year old Heifer each, all of which several bequests above mentioned I order to be paid out of my moveable Estate and the money arising by the sale of my Land at the Miamies provided the same shall be sufficient for the purpose and the bequests to be reckoned Eight Shillings the Spanish Dollar. . . .

And my will further is that in case my son Aaron shall neglect to pay a Debt he owes to Samuel Berry of New Barbadoes Neck for which I am bound as Surety in a Bond conditioned for the payment of Two Hundred pounds so that by such neglect my Estate shall be incumbered or suffer damage thereby that then my Executors or the Survivor of them shall sell so much of the Land herein before devised to my sd son AARON as will indemnify my Estate so as not to injure my other Children.

Hereby giving & granting unto my said Executors hereinafter named and the survivor of them full and ample power to do and perform each and every matter which they are ordered or directed to in this my Will and Testament and I do hereby ordain and appoint my son BENJAMIN WINANS and my friend ABRAHAM CLARK Executors of this my last will and Testament revoking all former wills and Testaments by me in any wise made Ratifying this to be my last. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the Day & year first above written.

Signed Sealed Published &
Declared by the said Benjamin Winans to be his
Last Will & Testament in
the presence of us Sub-
scribers

BENJAMIN WINANS

CHARLES TOOKER
LEWIS TOOKER
THOMAS MORGAN

CODICIL. Whereas I BENJAMIN WINANS of the Borough of Elizabeth being desirous of making some alterations and additions unto my Last Will & Testament hereunto annexed bearing date the twelfth day of April in the year one thousand seven

ABRAHAM CLARK

Hundred and Ninety one Do therefore make & publish this as a Codicil to my said Will & Testament and first my wearing apparel which in my said will I gave to my sons Joshua and John I now give to Joshua John and Aaron equally among them.

Item the salt meadow formerly belonging to my Deceased Father the one moiety whereof in my sd will I devised unto my son Jacob I now hereby revoke that devise and the Moiety of said Meadow which in said Will was devised unto my son Jacob I hereby devise unto my son Jacob's son Benjamin and to his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give unto my daughter Mary Meeker all the goods which I lent to her at her marriage that no deduction on Account thereof shall be made out of her Legacy as mentioned in my said Will.

Item I give unto my said daughter Mary Meeker for and during her Natural Life a House & Lot of Land containing by Estimation about four acres and a half acre purchased of Jacob Traubles since making my said will which Lot of Land bindeth on the Road leading to Traubles Landing and also bindeth on the respective lands of Anthony Morss Amos Tucker and Aaron Winans; and at the decease of my said Daughter Mary I give and devise the said House and Lot of Land equally among all the children of my said Daughter Mary and to their respective heirs and assigns forever in severalty and in consideration of the above gift to my daughter Mary I do order that instead of the two hundred pounds given to Mary in my said Will there be paid to her as a Bequest only the sum of eighty pounds which shall be paid to her or kept at Interest for her use as my Executors or the Survivor of them shall Judge proper in the manner directed in my said Will.

Item I order my Executors to sell all my third part of a Tract of Land which I hold in partnership with my sons Benjamin and John which we purchased of Joseph Oliver containing about fifteen acres and lying between the Lands of Jeremiah Clark and Jabez Marsh deceased, and the money arising by such sale to be applied towards paying my Debts and the Legacies bequeathed in and by my said will Hereby giving and granting unto my said Executors and the Survivor of them

ABRAHAM CLARK

full power & Authority to grant and convey the said premisses and I hereby declare that this writing as a Codicil shall be considered as a part of my said will and Testament.

In Witness Whereof I have to this Codicil to my Last Will & Testament set my hand & seal this Twenty-first day of August in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Ninety two. Note in addition to what is above written and as a part of this Codicil to my Last Will and Testament I hereby give unto my wife over and above what I have given to her in my said Will one Hundred Weight of Pork six Bushells of Wheat six bushells of Indian Corn and six Cheeses such as she shall Chuse all of which to be delivered to her by my Executors at my decease.

Signed sealed published &
declared by the said Benjamin Winans to be a Codicil to his last Will and Testament in the presence of us Subscribers

BENJAMIN WINANS

CHARLES TUCKER JUNR

LEWIS TOOKER

WESSELLS TUCKER

Sworn the 9th day of April, 1793, at Newark, before Alex'r MacWhorter Surg'te for Essex.

The foregoing Will and Codicil being proved, probate was granted by the Honorable Elisha Lawrence, Esq'r, unto Benjamin Winans and Abraham Clark, executors therein named. (Recorded in Liber 35 of Wills, page 200.)

On March 28, 1793, an inventory of the possessions of Benjamin Winans was made by Robert Clark and Jeremiah Clark; and on June 21, 1798, the estate was closed by Benjamin Winans, Jr., the surviving executor. Following are a few of the items selected from the lengthy and detailed inventory:

An old Cow and two calves.....	£ 6 0 0
One pair of Oxen.....	25 0 0

ABRAHAM CLARK

One pair of Oxen.....	20	0	0
One pair of Young Oxen.....	14	0	0
One Bull.....	5	10	0
Six Cows.....	36	0	0
3 Yearlins.....	6	0	0
One old Mare.....	6	0	0
One Young Mare.....	20	0	0
A Riding Chair and Harness.....	24	0	0
2 Hogs.....	5	0	0
19 Hens.....	1	5	0
70 Sheep per head 14/.....	4	18	0
A Negro Man.....	120	0	0
A Negro Girl.....	40	0	0
And other items, making a total of £791/13/10.			

The will of Isaac Winans was proved June 30, 1780. Abraham Clark and Amos Morse, named as executors, having declined to act, Jonathan Dayton was made Administrator. Following is the text of the will:

In the Name of God Amen I ISAAC WINANS of the Borough of Elizabeth in the Province of New Jersey, being in health of body and of perfect mind and memory Blessed by God therefor, do this Twenty-third day of August in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner following.

First I do order that all my just Debts and funeral Expenses be paid out of my Moveable Estate.

Item all the Residue and remainder of my Moveable Estate I give and Bequeath unto my beloved Wife MARIANNA.

Item I give and Devise unto my son MARIANUS WINANS and to his Heirs and Assigns forever All that Tract of Land with the Tenements and Hereditaments whereon he now lives which I purchased of Wessel Tucker Containing about Eighty Eight Acres, Lying Adjoining on the Persack River, and also those

ABRAHAM CLARK

two pieces of Salt Meadow lying in Raway Meadows adjoining on the North side of Piles's Creek, one of which said pieces adjoins the Meadow of David Ross, and Binds on the Other Side part by Piles's Creek, and part by a small Creek, the Other of which said pieces of Meadow Binds part by Meadow of Abraham Winans, part by Meadow of Benjamin Winans, part by Piles's Creek, and part by a small Worm. . . .

Item I give and Devise unto my son MOSES WINANS and to his Heirs and Assigns forever, all that my Homestead plantation with the Hereditaments and Appurtenances thereunto belonging, also a piece of Salt Meadow which I purchased of Robert Morss called Parks Meadow Lying on the South East side of Piles's Creek.

And I do Order and Direct that my son Matthias in Consideration of the Above Devise do pay unto my Daughter ABIGAIL WILLIS the Sum of Twenty-five pounds, unto my Daughter MARGARET Fifty Pounds, unto my Daughter JANE Twenty-five Pounds, and unto my Grandaughter JANE WILLIS daughter of BENJAMIN WILLIS the sum of Twenty Pounds, and unto my eldest son ISAAC WINANS the sum of Two pounds.

And I do also Order and Direct that my son MOSES in part of Consideration of the above Devise, do pay unto my Daughter JANE, the sum of Twenty-two pounds, unto my Daughter SUSANNAH Fifty pounds and unto my Daughter ELIZABETH the sum of Fifty pounds. . . .

And Whereas my Wife's Heir at Law was entitled to a Certain part of the Plantation now possessed by Peter Traubles, which part or share in said Estate it was found expedient to sell unto the said Peter Traubles which I accordingly Sold, and gave my Bond or Obligation to said Peter Traubles to make him a Title for the Same as soon as my present wife's heir at Law should arrive at Age.

I also sold to Joseph Morss Jun'r a part of the Land and Premises whereon he hath erected Mills which also belonged unto my said wife's heir at Law and Likewise gave him a Bond to make him a Title thereto as soon as my present wife's heir at Law arrived at Age.

And whereas my said son Moses if he Arrives at Age will be Heir unto my said wife and entitled unto the Lands by me

ABRAHAM CLARK

Sold as aforesaid, My Will Therefore is, and I do Order that my said son Moses in part of Consideration of the Devise to him made, Do when he arrives at Lawful Age make, Execute and Deliver unto the said Peter Traubles or his Heirs or Assigns a proper Deed of Conveyance . . . and also make a Title to Joseph Morss Jun'r for the Land I sold to him or Otherwise take up and discharge the said Bond I gave to Morss. . . .

Item If my son Moses shall happen to Die under Age (either before or after my Decease) not leaving Lawful Issue, that then and in which Case, my son Matthias shall be acquitted from all the Legacies herein before directed to be paid by him, and my Executors shall and they are hereby ordered and directed to sell and Convey all the Lands and Real Estate herein before Devised unto my son Moses and out of the Monies arising from such sale to pay unto my son Isaac the sum of Sixty pounds, and unto my Daughter Abigail forty pounds, and unto my said Granddaughter Jane Willis the Sum of Twenty five pounds and to pay the remainder equally among my four youngest daughters by my present Wife Namely Margaret, Jane, Susannah and Elizabeth. . . .

And I Ordain, Constitute and Appoint my Trusty friends AMOS MORSS and ABRAHAM CLARK Executors of this my last Will & Testament hereby revoking all former Wills and Testaments by me in any Wise made Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand and seal the day and year first herein above written.

Signed Sealed Published and

Delivered by the said Isaac
Winans to be his Last Will
and Testament in the pres-
ence of

ISAAC WINANS

AARON CLARK
THOMAS CLARK
MARY HUBBELL
ABRA. CLARK

AARON CLARK one of the Witnesses to the within Will being duly sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, did depose

ABRAHAM CLARK

and say that he saw ISAAC WINANS the Testator therein named sign and seal the same and heard him publish, pronounce and declare the within writing to be his last Will and Testament and that at the doing thereof the sd Testator was of sound and disposing Mind and Memory as far as this Deponent knows and as he verily believes and that THOMAS CLARK & MARY HUBBELL & ABRAHAM CLARK were present at the same Time & subscribed their Names as Witnesses to the sd Will together with This Deponent and in presence of sd Testator.

Sworn before me at Eliz'th

Town this 30th day of June

AARON CLARK

1780

Robt. Ogden Jr. Surg't.

Abraham Clark sent a letter from Philadelphia, dated June 6, 1780, stating that his business in Congress would not permit of his accepting the administration of this estate. It was during the darkest period of the war, and the estate of Isaac Winans had no doubt greatly diminished in value, as the following advertisement would seem to indicate:

TO BE SOLD AT VENDUE on Tuesday the 11th inst. at 10 o'clock in the forenoon at the late dwellinghouse of ISAAC WINANS, deceased, in Elizabeth Town, Rahway; one horse, cows, young cattle, sheep, hogs, wool, feather beds and bedding, Indian corn, many articles of household furniture, farming utensils, etc. A stout young negro man at private sale. Articles will be made known at the time of sale. JONATHAN L. DAYTON, Administrator. (New Jersey Archives, 1780, Vol. IV, page 477.)

William Clark, who married Sarah, a daughter of "Deacon" Andrew Hetfield (son of Isaac), was not a descendant of that Richard Clark who came from Southold to Elizabethtown in 1678. William Clark's

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ancestor, Samuel Clark, said to have come from Hereford, England, about 1680 to Long Island, removed to Westfield, New Jersey, and died there. Two sons went with him to Westfield, one of whom, Thomas Clark, married and had a son William, who married and had a son Charles, who married and had a son William Clark, born in Westfield June 17, 1756; died, September 28, 1853; married May 8, 1783, Sarah Hetfield (born, 1762; died December 7, 1841). This William Clark and his brother Azariah were imprisoned by the British in the "Old Sugar House" in New York during the war. Andrew H. Clark, a school teacher in Westfield, was the son of William and Sarah.

The will of Andrew Hetfield was admitted to probate January 29, 1824, when his son-in-law, William Clark, and Israel R. Corriell (named as co-executor in a codicil dated January 7, 1824), qualified as executors. The will reads as follows:

In the name of God Amen, I ANDREW HETFIELD of the Township of Westfield County of Essex and State of New-Jersey being well in body and of sound mind memory and Understanding for which blessing I most devoutly thank my God do make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say:

First it is my Will and I do order that all my Just debts and funeral expences be duly paid and satisfied as soon as conveniently can be after my decease.

Second That my Executors herein after named deliver to my Wife Sarah Hetfield all Bonds notes or obligations which are given in her name and being in my possession Likewise all the household furniture which she brought me agreeably to a Jointure made between us before marriage within six days after my decease.

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Item I give and bequeath unto my beloved Wife Sarah Hetfield aforesaid to her and to her heirs and assigns forever Four hundred dollars to be paid to her within six months after my decease A certain known heifer three years old this spring a set of Checkam homespun curtains I also give unto my said wife the use of the best Room in my House and as much Celler and Chamber room as she may Conveniently want dureing the term of six months with a sufficiency of fire wood for her own fuel dureing said term to be taken of my wood Land hereinafter Bequeathed in equal proportion of each shair, which annuity I give to my said Wife in Lieu of her right of dower out of my estate.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Sally wife of William Clark to her and to her heirs and assigns forever a Certain Lot of land being a part of what is called my hundred acre lot Lying on the South side of the first mountain being Lot No one. . . . And Likewise I give to my said Daughter Sally all that tract of Land being a part of my Homested plantation Lying on the Northwesterly side of the Road leading past my house including all the Buildings thereon and Appurtenances to the same belonging, also my Salt meadow lying on Elizabeth Town Creek.

Item I give and bequeath to my Daughter Mary Wife of Smith Williams a Certain Lot of land being a part of what is called my Hundred acre lot lying on the South side of the first Mountain Being Lot No Two. . . . I likewise give to my said Daughter Mary the remainder of My Homestead Plantation Lying on the southeasterly side of the Road Leading past my House which I purchased of Nicholas Mooney and Elis Hand.

Item I give and Bequeath Unto my Daughter Abigail Wife of David Ludlow the Use of that part of a small farm that remains in my possession that I Lately purchased at sheriff sale Lying and being in the Township of Rahway formerly the property of David Ludlow and adjoining Lands that I lately sold to Samuel Oliver. I likewise give to my said Daughter Abigail the use of A certain lot of land Being a part of what is called my hundred Acre Lot lying on the south side of the first Mountain Being Lot No 3 and Beginning at a stake being a Corner of Lot No. 2 thence Southwesterly to a stake being a

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Corner of John Clarks Land thence with said Clark's Line up the Mountain Northwesterly to a stone being Stephen Clark's Corner thence with said Clark's Line southwesterly to a stake being a Corner of Lands formerly belonging to Jeremiah Morris deceased . . . with the privilege to take as much wood off said Lands as will be sufficient for her own fuel and fencing and no more Which gifts I give to my said Daughter Abigail during her Life only and the profits off said Lands to go into the home of my said Daughter Abigail or to her Order Only my intent being that the same shall not come into the hands or be Liable to the Order of her said husband or any subsequent husband and at the decease of my said Daughter Abigail then my Will and Order is that the said Lands that my said Daughter Abigail has the Use of dureing her Life be disposed of in the following manner and form that is to say:

First I give and bequeath to My Grand Daughter Mary Ludlow Three Acres of Land of my farm at Rahway and one equal half of the Dwelling house and out buildings on said farm the Land to be taken off the Northwest Side Next to that Lot I sold to Samuel Oliver equal Wedth frunt and rear and to extend from the rode passing the Methodist Meeting House to the River line. Likewise a Lot of Wood Land that I purchased of Cooper Osborn and James Anderson Lying on the first Mountain Which gifts I give to her and to her heirs and assigns forever.

Second I give and bequeath to my grand son Andrew Hetfield Ludlow the remainder of my farm at Rahway and the remainder of Lot No 3 Lying on the first mountain being a part of what is called my hundred acre Lot and part of the same that my said Daughter Abigail has the use of dureing her life and herein before described and also a House and Lot of Land Containing about Nine Acres that I purchased of William Potter said gifts I give to him and to his heirs and assigns forever Reserving to my said Daughter Abigail her aforementioned privileges And also the use of the above said House and Lot that I purchased of sd Potter dureing her life.

Item my Will and order is that my Executors herein after named or the survivor of them sell and dispose of a Lot of Land lying near Mrs. Sarah Millers Bounded by Lands of William

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Mills, sd Mrs. Sarah Millers, the Road, and Israel K. Corriell and to give a good and sufficient title for the same if not disposed of before my decease, and the proseads to be Vested into my Moveable estate to be disposed of as herein after directed.

Item I give and bequeath to my said Daughter Sally one Equal Third part of my Moveble estate not before bequeathed to her.

Item I give and bequeath to my said Daughter Mary one Equal Third part of my Moveble Estate not before bequeathed to her.

Item I Bequeath to my executors hereinafter named and the survivor of them, his Executors and Administrators, the Remaining Third part of my Moveble Estate not before bequeathed, in trust, nevertheless to place the same at Interest and to pay the Interest thereof coming due annually to my said Daughter Abigail during her life or to her order, only my intent being that the same shall not be payable to or liable to the order of her said husband or any subsequent husband. And at the decease of my said Daughter Abigail said third to Be Equally divided between my two grand children Mary and Andrew Hetfield Ludlow shair and shair alike.

Lastly I hereby appoint William Clark my son-in-law and Samuel Cory Executors of this my Last will and in witness whereof I have to this my last will and testament set my hand and Seal this thirtieth Day of May in the Year of our Lord Eighteen hundred & Twenty.

Signed Sealed & delivered in
the presence of

EPHRAIM CLARK
STEWART MILLS
PHEBE CLARK

ANDREW HETFIELD

Adolph Jonas, a brave soldier in the service of his country during the whole period of the Revolutionary War, died in 1795, in Middlesex County, New Jersey, without leaving a will. A bond in the sum of £1000 was given by Jonathan Bloomfield, administrator of his estate, and said bond was recorded in Liber 35

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of Wills, page 199; sworn at New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey, November 7, 1795. There is now no record to be found of the inventory of this estate "exhibited in the Prerogative office at Burlington," and no record of any decree of distribution or discharge of the administrator.

Catherine, daughter of Adolph Jonas, was married to Jonathan Clark, September 14, 1800. They had fourteen children. In the spring of 1809, Jonathan and Catherine Clark left Pittsburg and journeyed down the Ohio River to the Miami. They located on a tract of unimproved land in Butler County, Ohio, (Section 31 Twp 2 Range 4 E) about thirty miles north of Cincinnati. On the tombstone which marks their graves in the cemetery at Maquoketa, Iowa, the inscriptions read as follows:

Jonathan Clark, born in New Jersey, September 5, 1776; died December 12, 1849.

Catherine, wife of Jonathan Clark, born in New Jersey, January 14, 1782; died February 16, 1854.

A curious maze of relationships existed among the old families of Elizabethtown. After the death of Jacob Winans (father of Benjamin, whose daughter Susannah married Aaron Clark) his widow Mary (who was the daughter of Joseph Morss) married Jonas Wood, planter, of Elizabethtown. Jonas Wood, whose will was proved April 1, 1745, had five children: Samuel; Anna, wife of James Clark; Phebe, wife of Ephraim Terrill; Margaret; and Sarah.

James Clark was one of the witnesses of the will of Margaret Marsh, widow of Benjamin. Her will (proved February 14, 1747) named six children:

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Benjamin, Enoch, David, Margaret, Sarah Williams, and Mary Clark. Benjamin Marsh, in 1765, was made administrator of the estate of Captain Abraham Clark.

Hannah Clark (born, 1735; died, June 6, 1805) a cousin of Abraham Clark, the Signer, was married three times; first, to John Squier, son of Thomas, and they had eight children; second, to ——— Ross; third, on January 4, 1797, to Matthias Hatfield, as his third wife.

Some members of the Abner Hampton family were Quakers, although Jonathan Hampton appears as one of the vestrymen in the original charter (dated July 20, 1762) of St. John's Episcopal Church. The close relationship which existed between the Clark and Hampton families began in 1697, when the inventory of Richard Clark's estate was made by Andrew Hampton. The will of Andrew Hampton, proved December 26, 1748, named five children: Andrew, Abner, Jacob, Hannah, and Margaret; it mentioned the plantation given to the testator by his father, Andrew Hampton, adjoining the lands of Thomas Clark and John Terrill. The witnesses were Abraham Clark and Jonathan Hampton; the inventory (£311) was made by Thomas Clark. (Liber E, page 233.)

When the father of Judge Thomas Clark died, in 1711, his widow, Hannah, and Andrew Hampton qualified as executors. Therefore, for about ten years, until Judge Thomas Clark was of age, Andrew Hampton probably had charge of his estate. Jonathan Hampton, who died November 1, 1777, was originally a surveyor. He was for many years a

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prominent citizen of Elizabethtown, and in 1768 was one of the Judges of Essex County.

In the year 1726, there was recorded in Essex County a conveyance of about fifty acres of land from James Hampton to James Clark of Elizabethtown:

In consideration of love good-will and affection towards my son-in-law James Clark of Elizabethtown, yeoman, on ye west side of Rahway river beginning at ye mouth of a brook called Paper Brook, thence north up said river as ye river runs, 10 chains; thence west 50 chains; thence south 10 chains; thence 50 chains, to mouth of said brook; bounded east by said river, north by land of said Hampton, west by Silas Pearce; on south, part by said brook and part by high-way. Acknowledged May 17, 1731. (Book B, page 171.)

The will of Henry Jaques proved January 18, 1750, named five children: Samuel, David, Ruth, Henry, Moses, all under age, and his wife Rebecca Rolph. He left plantations in Essex and Middlesex Counties, New Jersey, and a tract of land in Maryland. The following records from the Essex County archives and from the Rahway tombstones indicate marriages among various connections of the Clark family:

David Edgar married Hannah Rolph in 1743.
William Edgar married Experience Clarkson, March 30, 1751.
Catherine Edgar married Abraham Laing, Sept. 27, 1769.
Jennet Edgar married Jeremiah Randolph, of Woodbridge.
Sarah Clark married William Miller of Elizabethtown, May 22, 1796.

Frances, wife of Randolph Jaques, d. 1815; age 20.
Zeporah, consort of Moses Jaques, d. Sept. 21, 1809; age 62.
Moses Jaques, Esq., d. Jan. 19, 1816; age 73.
Elizabeth, widow of Moses Jaques, d. Sept. 2, 1827; age 65.

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In a deed of conveyance dated May 10, 1707, and acknowledged April 7, 1722, before Isaac Whitehead, judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Thomas Clark, planter, and Hannah, his wife, of Elizabethtown, sold for £12 to Isaac Hetfield, boatman of Elizabethtown, 8 acres more or less of land in Elizabethtown: bounded northwest by lands of Daniel Ross and George Ross, northeast by lands of Benjamin Clark, southeast by lands of John Winans, southwest by a way. Signed by Thomas Clark; witnessed by Samuel Whitehead and Joanna Whitehead. (Book B, page 33.)

This ancient deed of 1707, when "good Queen Anne" ruled over the American colonies, made between Thomas Clark, planter, and Isaac Hetfield, boatman, seems to have been the beginning of a series of "transactions" or contracts, between the members of the Clark and Hetfield families, lasting for more than two hundred years. Many of these contracts were marriages, the most notable of which was that of Sarah, the daughter of a younger Isaac Hetfield, to Abraham Clark, the Signer, grandson of Thomas Clark, planter.

IV

Chronological Notes Concerning Abraham Clark

IV

Chronological Notes Concerning Abraham Clark

FEBRUARY 15, 1726, Abraham Clark was born in the Borough of Elizabeth, Essex County, New Jersey.

In 1748-49 he was married to Sarah Hetfield, eldest daughter of Isaac Hetfield, sister of Isaac and Andrew Hetfield, first cousin of Mrs. Robert Ogden, the mother of General Matthias and Governor Aaron Ogden.

During the years 1738-1750 the names of Judge Thomas Clark, Captain Abraham Clark, and Abraham Clark, jun'r (the Signer), appear many times in the record books of wills and conveyances in Essex County.

In addition to drawing documents, Abraham Clark and his father and uncle acted as executors, appraisers, and witnesses in connection with the estates of Andrew Hampton; Andrew, Jun'r, and Margaret Hampton; Samuel Mills (dividing lands between the children); Mary Wood; Joshua Marsh; Benjamin Williams; and many others.

1752-1756. At various times during this period Abraham Clark, jun'r, served as Clerk of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey. ("Journal of the Provincial Congress;" New Jersey Archives, XVII and XXI.)

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In 1752 Abra: Clark, jun'r, was for four days in attendance as Clerk of the Assembly at Elizabethtown.

April 25, 1754. Abra: Clark, jun'r, was Clerk of the General Assembly, New Jersey.

"February 24, 1755. Session of the General Assembly begun at Elizabethtown. Prevented from meeting at Burlington or Perth Amboy by the poor health of Joshua Belcher, Esq'r, Governor. Abra: Clark, jun'r, clk."

"February 28, 1755. Ordered: That Mr. Reed and Mr. Miller do carry to the Council for their concurrence, the Bill entitled &c. . . . By order of the General Assembly. Abra: Clark, jun'r, Clk."

"March 1, 1755. Ordered: This house have agreed to their amendment to the said Bill. By order of the House. Abra: Clark, jun'r, clk."

"December 23, 1755. The House Mett. A message from the House of Assembly in the following words: Ordered &c . . . if not, that this House purposes to apply to his Excellency, for a Dismission. By order of the House. Abra: Clark, jun'r, Clk."

"In 1756, Abra: Clark, jun'r, Clk of the Assembly, received pay for 16 days, £10/12/8."

August 27, 1756. A deed thus dated, drawn and executed by Abraham Clark, jun'r, is preserved in the MS. collection of Haverford College, Pennsylvania. It reads as follows:

This Indenture, made this Twenty Seventh Day of August in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and fifty Six by and Between ABRAHAM CLARK jun. of the Borough of Elizabeth in the County of Essex & Province of East New Jersey yeoman of the one part, and Samuel Woodruff Esq'r of the same

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place aforesaid of the other part Witnesseth, that the said Abraham Clark for & in Consideration of the Sum of Thirty Pounds Jersey Money at Eight Shillings the Ounce to him in hand well & Truly paid before the Ensealing hereof Hath Granted Bargained Sold & Conveyed & by these presents Doth Grant Bargain Sell & Convey unto him the said Samuel Woodruff his Heirs and assigns forever, all that Tract of Land & Premises Lying and being in the Borough aforesaid on the South East Side of the first Mountain Beginning at a Stake in Range of the Line of Thomas Jacob's Land, and Line of Stephen Vail's Land and from thence Running the same course that said Jacob's Line Runs, being between the North & Northwest, up the Mountain to the Lott no. One Hundred and Sixty three laid out in the first Division of Lotts West of the first Mountain thence North Easterly as the said Lott Lays along the Top of the Mountain Sixty five Chains on a Straight Line, thence from said Lott South East fifteen Chains down the said Mountain thence South Westerly on a Direct Line to the Northernmost Corner of said Stephen Vail's Land, thence with said Vail's Line South Westerly to the first mentioned place of Beginning Containing by Estimation Fifty Acres of Land—Bounded South East, part by the Land of said Stephen Vail, South West by said Thomas Jacobs Land and North West by the aforesaid Division of Lotts, Together also with all the Mines Minerals Ore, and all Other appurtenances. . . . And the said Abraham Clark and his Heirs and assigns Against the Lawful Claim & Demand of all Persons Whatsoever, shall and will Warrant and forever Defend by Virtue of these Presents.

In Witness whereof the said Abraham Clark hath herunto Sett his Hand and Seal the Day & year first above Written.

Sealed & Delivered In the

Presence of

ABRAHAM CLARK jun'r

PAUL KLEINHOFF

JOSEPH JELF

In 1764, Abraham Clark was appointed by the legislative body of the State of New Jersey one of the commissioners to survey and divide the common

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lands of the old township of Bergen. ("Hudson County Land Titles" by Charles Winfield.)

February 16, 1764. In a letter resigning the guardianship of James Frazee, Abraham Clark wrote:

Saturday Morning February 16th 1764.

SIR: I was this day informed by the Neighbours that James Frazee had behaved himself very indecent at School, and had taken away his book, and upon inquiring after him hear that he went to your House this morning—his behaviour is such that I cannot dispence with it,—I have trouble enough with his plantation and with Higgins without being plagued with him; if he is at your house you may recommend some person to take the Care of him for the future, for I am determined to have no more Concern with him or his plantation. And as the Governor will be at Amboy next week I would have some person apply to him for that purpose, as I intend to resign. I shall set off for Amboy on Tuesday morning life and health permitting. I Send a Petition which must be Signed by James and the person's name inserted that he Chuses and the person so Chose can carry it & get the Letters.

I am determined in my Resolution & expect something will be done in a few days.

Sir Yours &c.

ABRA. CLARK, Jun'r

(Letter in the Secretary of State's Office at Trenton, New Jersey.)

A fragment of a legal document, dated July 26, 1765, executed by Abraham Clark, is in the MS. collection of the New York Public Library. It reads:

Pursuant to the Within Writ. I have taken goods of the Defendants to the Amount of Twenty pounds which remain unsold for want of Buyers, being all the goods that came to my knowledge.

ABRA: CLARK jun'r

July 26, 1765.

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A deed dated September 13, 1765, entirely in the handwriting of Abraham Clark, is preserved in the MS. collection of Haverford College, Pennsylvania. By this deed Abner Hampton conveys certain salt meadow lands to John Clawson. Acknowledgment was made July 31, 1772, before Jonathan Frazee, one of his Majesty's Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas.

November 25, 1766, Abraham Clark, Esq'r, High Sheriff of the Free Borough and town of Elizabeth, conveyed lands to Benjamin Scudder; witnesses, John Oliver and Jeremiah Clark. (Recorded in Book 1, page 186.)

In 1766 Abraham Clark was one of the commissioners appointed to survey and construct a road from Newark to Trenton. The funds were raised from the sale of lottery tickets in accordance with the plan set forth in the following advertisement, which appeared in the weekly newspapers:

PROVINCE OF NEW JERSEY,

December 3, 1766.

Whereas a law was passed in New Jersey on the 20th of June, 1765, appointing commissioners to run out straight public roads through said Province between New York and Philadelphia, and empowering them to raise a sum of money by a public Lottery, not exceeding £500 towards defraying the charge thereof; accordingly a Lottery was thereupon after set on Foot, but from the Troubled State of Affairs at that Time occasioned by the Stamp Act, the proceedings of the said Lottery were delayed; but as it is apprehended that the salutary Purpose might now be effected the Managers therein appointed have thought fit for that end to revise the following scheme of a

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Lottery to consist of 2222 Tickets, at Four Dollars each, 662 of which are to be fortunate as follows: [then appear lists of prizes].

The fortunate numbers are to be printed in the New York and Philadelphia papers as soon as possible after the Drawing which will be directed by the following Committees: . . . ABRAHAM CLARK, jun'r and EPHRAIM TERRILL of Elizabethtown are likewise appointed Managers and Commissioners for the Road leading from Newark and Elizabethtown to Trenton and Borden Town.

The Shortening and improving the Public Roads through this Province will be a great advantage to the commercial interests and a general convenience to the Inhabitants thereof as well as an advantage to the neighbouring Provinces, particularly to Pennsylvania and New York, and as it is the first thing of the Kind that has been attempted on the Continent, it is not doubted but every public spirited Person in this as well as the neighbouring Provinces will generously contribute to an undertaking tending so greatly to the advantage and ease of men of Business and Pleasure as it is judged that the Distance between New York and Philadelphia will be shortened twelve or fifteen miles and the Roads all made more passable and convenient for Travellers in the winter Season than they are at Present.

Tickets to be had of Daniel Ellis of Bordentown, Daniel Coxe of Trenton, James Parker of Perth Amboy, ABRAHAM CLARK, jun'r of Elizabeth Town, and of all the other Managers in Jersey at their Respective Dwellings.

The activities of the time were largely tinged by lotteries. The important enterprises of nearly every Colony had been promoted and financed with money acquired from the sale of lottery tickets. During and following the war, there was a wide-spread mania for lotteries, and the sale of lottery tickets to raise money for public utilities was legalized by statute in the several States. Therefore Abraham Clark's participation in the sale of lottery tickets for the purpose of securing funds for road-building was at

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that time considered both commendable and public-spirited.

In 1792 the Court House at Elizabethtown was rebuilt with money realized from the sale of lottery tickets. The operation of the first spinning-jenny made in the United States was financed in Massachusetts with funds drawn in a lottery, and the article of Jay's treaty which forbade the export of cotton for twenty-five years was in consequence bitterly opposed, says John Bach McMaster in his "History of the People of the United States." There being a scarcity of money in Vermont, lottery tickets were sold for two bushels of wheat each. This was in December 1788. The lottery came to be resorted to for raising money for every conceivable purpose: For enlarging the City Hall for the use of Congress at New York; to build a new City Hall in Philadelphia; to build bridges, bulkheads, and woolen mills; to pave roads, to lift the debts from churches; to increase library facilities, as at Harvard.

January 13, 1767. Inquisition taken at the dwelling-house of James Banks, at Newark, in the County of Essex, before Abraham Clark, Esq., High Sheriff of the County of Essex:

Josiah Crane and others upon their Oaths do say that Abraham Lott and Isaac Low in the writ of Inquiry hereunto annexed have sustained Damages in the sum of One Hundred and Twenty four Pounds three Shillings and Eleven Pence Current money of New Jersey at eight Shillings the Ounce. . . . The Jurors afsd have hereunto set their Hands & seals the Day & Year afsd.

Josiah Crane
Sam Huntington
Samuel Hayes
Ezekiel Ball
Josiah Potter
Abraham Meeker

Joseph Smith
Jabez Harrison
John Dooly
George Wells
Joseph Z. Williams
John Williams

ABRA: CLARK

(MS. Collection of Louis Bamberger, Esq., Newark, New Jersey.)

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On March 21, 1768, the name of Abraham Clark appeared in the *New York Gazette & Weekly Mercury*, which advertised as follows:

"A tract of 2000 acres of lands for sale in Morris County, 15 miles from Newark, 23 miles from New York. . . . For further particulars enquire of John Berrian, Esq'r, near Princetown, Jonathan Hampton and ABRAHAM CLARK jun'r, Esq'r, near Elizabethtown, or the Owner in New York. (New Jersey Archives, XXVI, page 90.)

In a deed dated January 18, 1769, "Abraham Clark, Esq'r, Sheriff of the Free Borough & Town of Elizabeth of the one part," . . . recites that

"The said ABRAHAM CLARK then and as yet Sheriff of said Borough . . . did on the Sixteenth day of May last past, expose to sale by way of public Vendue the aforesaid eight-and-fortieth part of a Tract of Land & Copper Mine in partnership with said Samuel Woodruff, Robert Ogden, Stephen Crane, and Others, which was then and there purchased by the said Samuel Woodruff . . . and before he payed the Consideration money or took a Deed for the same departed this life . . . and the said Benjamin Woodruff being his eldest son and Heir, on whom his said fathers purchase, by his decease as afores'd, devolved" . . . etc. (MS. Collection of Haverford College, Pennsylvania.)

The foregoing deed in the handwriting of Abraham Clark shows the character of the work involved in the execution of his duties as High Sheriff. It was an office much sought after. Many men were not so capable of filling it as Abraham Clark. His knowledge of the law, of conveyancing, and of surveying, well fitted him for the exigencies of this exacting office. Probably the emoluments were not small, as incomes were rated in those days. The office of High

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Sheriff of Hunterdon County has been spoken of in the contemporaneous press as "a lucrative office producing about £600 in fees." Probably in Essex County the fees amounted to about the same figures.

In December, 1774, Abraham Clark was a member of the Committee of Safety, and subsequently the Secretary. ("History of Union & Middlesex Counties, New Jersey," Phila. 1882; Hatfield's "Elizabeth," page 430.)

May 23, 1775. The Provincial Congress of New Jersey met at Trenton. Elizabethtown was represented by Abraham Clark, Elias Boudinot, John Chetwood, William Peartree Smith, and John Stites.

Among the many duties which devolved upon Abraham Clark at this time was the task of providing gunpowder at the various points where it would be most needed. In a letter preserved in the Emmet Collection of the New York Public Library, dated Elizabethtown, June 8, 1775, he says:

SIR: The Quarter Cask of Powder now sent you I got at New Brunswick & the 2 half Barrels containing 105 lbs. I got at Woodbridge—for each of which I gave rec't that I rec'd them to be forwarded to the Provincial Camp near Boston Agreeable to a requisition from thence— There was no more to be Obtained, they had sold the most of their stores to the inhabitants. You'l be so kind as to send a rec't of the same Tenor of those I gave that I may show them the Stores are forwarded agreeable to my promise.

I am Sir Your Humble Serv't,

ABRA: CLARK

ABRAHAM CLARK

In a letter dated Elizabethtown, March 15, 1776, Abraham Clark again tells of the difficulty of securing powder. He says:

DEAR SIR, You no doubt have had News of New York Expecting the King's Troops there. Lord Stirling yesterday sent to our Committee for the militia to march there immediately. We ans'd we had no powder to send them, & besides our scarcity of Arms &c and our own exposedness would not suffer it. This afternoon an Express, I was informed, came again with some request from the N. York Congress, but I was so fatigued I did not go to meet them. I fear these reports will occasion a Meeting of Congress or Committee of Safety, and I feel utterly unable to attend so far. I made a bad bargain undertaking to copy Minutes &c. That with other continued Calls have worried me out. . . .

There is no Powder to be had at New York. Mr. Livingston hath engaged one Ton at Phil'a which Mr. Blanchard with one of his Company is going for in the morning and I fear no money will be ready signed to pay for it. I know not the Price, but our Necessity this way at this Time requires our getting it at any Price. Mr. Livingston obtained it of Congress and wrote to me that I might send for it and have it brought to Elizaⁿ Town I suppose it must be distributed in the Counties this way. . . .

I am Sir, Most Affectionately Yours,

ABRAHAM CLARK

March 29, 1776. Abraham Clark, from his home, Elizabethtown, addressed a letter to Samuel Tucker, President of the Committee of Safety at Trenton, protesting against the drafting of Jersey men for duty in New York. He wrote as follows:

Last night I saw General ——— letter to draft the Militia to go to New York by your order. I wrote the President this morning respecting the inexpediency of such a Measure, now we are defenceless and in Continued Danger. . . . If your

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Committee can order such drafts, and Arms impressed without an order of Congress, I know no use of a Congress, and a more arbitrary step you'll think can hardly be taken. I think we ought to guard against every step depriving us of Constitutional Liberty. I hope you'll remember the Minute men voluntarily enlisted, and we never before presumed to force men out of the Province against their Wills—and besides I expect they will not obey such a mandate. If you can carry them by force to N. York you may also carry them to Canada by the same power . . . if any go let them be Volunteers only—this hath always been our custom before. But if all the Congresses upon the Continent required us to disarm ourselves at present, unless we are deemed Dangerous to Liberty, I would not Obey.

I am, Gentlemen, Your distressed Hum. Serv't

ABRA: CLARK

A certificate signed by Abraham Clark, in the MS. collection of the New York Public Library, reads as follows:

NEW BRUNSWICK April 20th, 1776.

These are to Certify that LEWIS OGDEN hath attended as a Member in the Provincial Congress & Committee of Safety at the Sessions in October, & February last, & the present Sessions, fifty eight Days, for which he is entitled to receive the Sum of Seventeen pounds & eight shillings Prov'l from either of the Treasurers of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey.

JOHN HART

ABRA: CLARK

June 22, 1776. Abraham Clark was elected a delegate to the Second Continental Congress, then sitting at Philadelphia. (Minutes of the New Jersey Provincial Congress.)

From the autobiographical statement of John Adams, and from Abraham Clark's letter, it would appear that the members of the New Jersey delegation were in attendance and affixed

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their names to the Declaration probably on July 2, 1776. Congress adjourned December 12, 1776. (See Burnett's "Letters of Members of the Continental Congress," Vol. I, pages li, 522, 523.)

There is no mention of the date of Abraham Clark's arrival in the "Journals of Congress" for 1776. But we find on page 74 of the Hatfield MS. (in possession of the New York Historical Society) the statement that "Abraham Clark on June 28, 1776, entered on his duties as a delegate to the Continental Congress." The author of the Hatfield MS. secured the data for his biographical sketches largely from personal and family letters, many of which are now in the hands of private collectors and not immediately available. There is no reason to doubt that Abraham Clark and Francis Hopkinson were both in Philadelphia in attendance at the session of the Continental Congress on June 28—the day the draft of the Declaration of Independence was submitted to the Congress.

In a letter dated July 14, 1776, from Elizabethtown, Abraham Clark again wrote to his friend Colonel Elias Dayton, stationed at German Flats, New York:

I continued at Philadelphia till Thursday last when I returned home. . . . Our Declaration of Independence I dare say you have seen—a few weeks will probably determine our fate—perfect freedom, or Absolute Slavery—to some of us freedom or a halter. . . . Soon after going to Congress at Philadelphia we had news of Gen'l Howe's arrival at Sandyhook, and a few days after of his landing on Staten Island, and surrounding it with his forces—From your feeling for your Town and Family when you first received this News, you can form some judgment of mine, tho' I was much nearer to them—I expected nothing less from this event than Eliza Town, long obnoxious to the Enemy, would be laid in Ashes, and indeed, had they come over they would have met with no Opposition,

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as our Militia a few days before had marched to New York by request of the Gen'l. . . .

Most affectionately Yours,

ABRAHAM CLARK

(Emmet Collection, New York Public Library.)

Colonel Dayton's reply, dated Fort Stanwix, July 20, 1776, is characteristic of the soldier. It shows that even the ardent patriots in the Colonies were not all of one mind in regard to the wisdom of breaking away from Great Britain at this time—a step they knew would inevitably precipitate a bitter war. Colonel Dayton says:

“FORT STANWIX.

“MY DEAR FRIEND: Friday 13th instant I marched from the German Flats for this place where I arrived safe the 16th with all the Boats and Ten pieces of Cannon sent me by General Schuyler to secure this (since the retreat of our army) very important post. . . . You tell me you hear our Regiment well spoken off which I am happy to hear. We have some good officers. Major Barber is worth his weight in gold to this Continent. Officers and men seem pleased with the declaration of Independency. For my part I must confess I should have rejoiced at a reconciliation with our old friends and brothers upon honorable terms for many reasons. yours of 26 June tells me of you and Mrs. Dayton taking your pleasures together at which I find no fault at present as by what she writes me since, I find you did not please her so but she thinks of me yet. I think in Ten days we shall be so fortifyed here as to have nothing to fear from an Enemy Especially if I get orders to stop wood Creek which will effectually prevent their bringing any Cannon.

“I beg to hear from you by every Opportunity especially at this troublesome time—I think I now have the command of one of the best Regiments in the service who all wish to be more immediately employed in defending the place of their birth. . . . If we are continued here our men will perish with

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cold unless we are supplied with shoes, stockings, shirts, waistcoats, &c—At present we are badly paid & I fear we soon shall have great disturbances on that head. We have not received one month's pay since we left New York—it astonishes me the Congress attend so little to paying the forces as I am told want of pay is a general complaint: I had like to forgot to congratulate you on your late appointment to be one of their high Mightinesses which I now do most heartily & out of pure respect you may see I have wrote on gilt paper. As you are now one of the Chiefs of the free & Independent States of America please in your next to inform me how I must direct to you whether by giving you the Title of High Mightiness, or what else you would choose." (Emmet Collection, New York Public Library.)

Fort Stanwix was named in honor of General John Stanwix, who commanded the British troops; he constructed the fort, in 1758, for the Indians who adhered to the English forces. General Schuyler, of the American army, succeeded in relieving this fort from capture in August, 1777, after which its name was changed to Fort Schuyler. It was at Fort Stanwix in 1768 that the Six Nations, in consideration of \$50,000, ceded to the British commander their hunting-grounds south of the Ohio River. Fort Stanwix stood where now is situated the city of Rome, New York.

Major Barber, referred to by Colonel Dayton, was one of the most brilliant young officers in the service. The New Jersey historian, William Nelson, tells of Colonel Barber's tragic death when only thirty-two years of age, after having served during the whole period of the war. He was twice married, both times to cousins of the Abraham Clark family. Beloved of all who knew him, he soon became a favorite with General Washington. The day on which the Commander-in-Chief intended to announce peace to the army—January 11, 1783—a number of the

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officers with their families were invited to dine with him; among others Colonel Barber and his wife.

While on duty as officer of the day—acting in place of a friend—Colonel Barber passed by the edge of a wood where soldiers were felling trees; a tree crashed down suddenly, and Colonel Barber and his horse were instantly killed.

Apparently Abraham Clark's sojourn at his home was a short one—he returned almost immediately to Philadelphia to his seat in Congress. Following is an extract from another letter to Colonel Dayton, dated Philadelphia, August 6, 1776:

"I most gratefully accept your congratulation on account of my appointment. Believe me, my dear friend, I am not in a place of my own choosing. I had much rather take an active part in our own State; I think I could have been more useful to my country there. . . . Besides, I have found my health much interrupted, pent up in a close town, deprived of air and exercise, and excessive heat from the reflection of the sun on the buildings and pavements. Excepting my health, I am as agreeably situated as I could expect. Dr. Witherspoon, Mr. Hart, and myself quarter together, and endeavor to make our lives as agreeable as possible."

(This letter was printed in Peter Force's "American Archives," Series 5, Vol. I, page 786.)

Abraham Clark was an active member of the Third Continental Congress, which convened December 20, 1776, at Baltimore; adjourned March 4, 1777.

The Fourth Continental Congress met March 4, 1777, at Philadelphia; adjourned September 18, 1777.

The Fifth Continental Congress met September 18, 1777, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania; adjourned after one day's session.

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The Sixth Continental Congress met September 30, 1777, at York, Pennsylvania; adjourned June 27, 1778.

During this period of two years from the date of his first election to the Continental Congress, Abraham Clark was in constant attendance. It is, however, reported in the "Journals of Congress" (page 267) that on April 14, 1777, Abraham Clark, upon his application, obtained a leave of absence to visit his family.

In a letter dated Philadelphia, June 18, 1777, Abraham Clark took occasion to express his views about the advisability of a more vigorous prosecution of the war, as follows:

"As matters are now Circumstanced I fear we shall have an Idle Summer—fighting is at the Time Necessary to keep up the Spirit of the Forces—without it our Militia will be dispirited and not easily called out at another Time. . . . I take no pleasure in pledging blood, but at the time I think a little of it is requisite—inactivity, if practised will ruin our Army if not our Cause—we have many Spirited officers who I dare say wish for an opportunity to signalize themselves and I wish their ardour may not be suffered to cool." (MS. collection of Haverford College, Pennsylvania.)

In a letter dated York Town, December 20, 1777, addressed to Major General Lord Stirling, who had fought with General Washington on the Brandywine, Abraham Clark in a few words quite succinctly sums up the situation with regard to our foreign relations. These are his views expressed as a member of the Congress, then sitting at York:

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"We also must depend upon our own forces, relying upon the blessing of Heaven for success. France and Spain appear to have something important in view by sending troops to the West Indies, but their designs are wholly unknown to us, and perhaps undetermined by them. . . . Many have long depended upon the interference of France in our favour; they indeed supply us with many necessities, but no certain prospect opens of their declaring war. Their timid court are unable to shake off a Dread of Great Britain; they wish us well, but dare not openly espouse our Cause. Spain is so entirely taken up with her Portugal affairs that she has almost forgotten us. Austria, Prussia, and Russia are all seeking their own interest and Meditating a Division of the Turkish Dominion, and but little regard the Dispute between us and Great Britain. Our Enemy is busy in supplicating Supplies from Germany. . . ." (MS. Collection of the Pennsylvania Historical Society.)

Again addressing Lord Stirling, Abraham Clark wrote from his seat in the Continental Congress regarding the unwarranted promotion of an unworthy officer:

YORK TOWN, January 15th, 1778.

MY LORD:

. . . Had ——'s letter to General Washington been before them, Congress would have probably acted otherwise. Dissensions among the officers of the army must be very injurious to the public interest. I cannot say what Congress will do. . . . The authority and credit of the Commander-in-Chief must be supported. . . . As the reduction of the battalions is become necessary a Committee of Congress and three of the Board of War are going to the army for that purpose. It is said many good officers are weary of the service, and wish to resign, unless they are put on a permanent establishment. That they are weary and wish for ease, I do not wonder; but who that are either in the civil or military department is not weary, and do not wish for retirement? The service in every part is severe. Congress sit night and day, taking little rest. Must we

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all therefore resign? This is no time to talk of ease and retirement; let us first establish our liberties—our desires of ease will then be obtained. . . . We all engaged, I hope, on patriotic principles; may the same, separate from every lucrative and ambitious view, carry us through this contest! (Duer's "Life of Lord Stirling.")

The following advertisement, which appeared in a weekly newspaper on April 27, 1778, shows that Abraham Clark did not neglect the affairs of his farm even while he was a member of Congress.

Stolen from the subscriber, near Elizabethtown, New Jersey, on the night of the 24th inst. two Horses: one a large brown, six years old, well made, trots and canters; he hath a remarkable scar on the buttocks, six or eight inches in length across the root of his tail. The other a black horse, with a star in his forehead, four years old, is middling large, but low in flesh, his head large, his tail long, with white hairs in it; he trots mostly and paces some. A reasonable compensation for securing or returning said horses, or either of them, will be made by ABRAHAM CLARK. (New Jersey Archives II, Vol. II, page 215.)

In August, 1779, Abraham Clark, while he was not in Congress, wrote concerning the sufferings of patriot soldiers in British prisons, the letter being intended to be laid before the Commander-in-chief, General Washington. It was addressed "To the Delegates of the State of New Jersey, for His Excellency Gen'l Washington," and reads as follows:

ELIZABETHTOWN, August 9th, 1779.

GENTLEMEN: There is now confined in the Provost in New York Captain Nathan'l Randolph of this State taken Prisoner some time last Winter, who hath been constantly in the Provost since taken, and no possible means appears to obtain his discharge but by Colo' Billop, now a Prisoner on Parole in this State, taken some short time ago by a small Party of Continental forces stationed as a guard at Woodbridge. It must

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he remembered that Mr. Randolph, after enduring a long confinement and severe treatment in Captivity, upon obtaining a Release acted as a Partisan with a small Party on our Lines without any commission or Emolument from Congress or pay from this State, and was with not more than a dozen Men of more service in guarding our Stores than any Fifty Men ever employed for that purpose. This rendered him exceeding obnoxious to the Enemy. While thus employed he took Colo. Billop Prisoner, who Mr. Randolph said he intended to keep for his own Ransom in case he fell into the Enemies' hands, which from his dangerous Enterprise appeared probable enough to happen; But as we then had no State Commissary Mr. Billop was exchanged by the Continental Commission for a Colonel of the Pennsylvania Forces; and Mr. Randolph last winter had the Misfortune for the second time to fall into the Enemy's hands, where he remains as above related. His spirits are now greatly depressed; he thinks himself neglected, observing that he had brought upon himself the implacable resentment of his enemies before he had secured the Friendship of his country. He remembers that Colo. Billop was once his Prisoner, taken at his own expense and disposed of by the Continental Commissioners, and that Mr. Billop is now in our Power, and his former exchange being considered as a Loan to the Continent, the debt can now be paid exactly in kind and value. Mr. Billop says the Enemy will not exchange Mr. Randolph for him, and there is no doubt but the Enemy will part with him very unwillingly; they have hitherto refused any proposed exchange; but all who know Colo. Billop, his Rank, Connections, and Interest with them, will readily believe that in case he is given up to the Torment to be treated in the same manner Mr. Randolph is, the exchange may soon be effected. It is not a little mortifying that Colo. Billop should be admitted to his Parole to live with his Brother in Jersey enjoying every Comfort possible but that of perfect Liberty, while Mr. Randolph and many others with the Enemy are suffering close imprisonment.

You will be pleased to lay this matter before Congress in hopes of obtaining an order for the proposed exchange, as Mr. Baity will not otherwise agree to it; and that until the same is effected Mr. Billop be treated similar to Mr. Randolph. There

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appears such evident justice in the request, that I flatter myself it will be as readily granted as asked; and indeed it is the only visible means of obtaining Mr. Randolph's discharge. A speedy determination is necessary; a delay may be as fatal to Mr. Randolph as a denial in case the Colonel in the meantime should be otherwise exchanged.

I am Gentlemen your obd't Humble Serv't

ABRA: CLARK

(From the Division of MSS., Library of Congress.)

During the years 1780 to 1783, Abraham Clark was again a member of the Continental Congress, and spent a great part of his time in Philadelphia, which was then the seat of Congress. On the Congress Roll of 1780 he was designated "a County Surveyor." His appointment was thus chronicled in the *New Jersey Gazette* (Vol. III, No. 114):

"TRENTON, March 1, 1780.

"At the sitting of the Legislature at Mountholly, Abraham Clark, Esq'r, was appointed a Representative in Congress for this State in the room of Dr. Thos. Henderson, who declined taking his seat."

In addition to the reports of his attendance at the Sessions of Congress, which appear in the "Journals of Congress" (edited by Worthington C. Ford, 1906), Abraham Clark's sojourn in Philadelphia is shown by the following letters:

PHILADELPHIA, June 6, 1780.

To Robert Ogden Jun'r Esquire, Judge of Probate or Surrogate in New Jersey.

SIR: My Business obliges me to decline accepting the Administration of the Estate of Isaac Winans deceased. I do therefore desire that his son Moses or such other person as he may name may obtain Letters for that purpose.

I am Sir Your Humble Serv't

ABRA: CLARK

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PHILADELPHIA, July 11th, 1780.

MADAM: The Station you fill in the benevolent Society of Ladies in New Jersey formed for Obtaining speedy supplies for the Army, induces the Medical Committee of Congress to address you in behalf of the sick and wounded officers and soldiers now in the hospital at or near Baskingridge, most of whom were wounded in the late engagements at Springfield; By an express from thence sent on purpose to communicate their wants, we are informed they are wholly destitute of bandages and Lint for dressings; this is truly distressing that such articles should be wanted in a Country where there must be a plenty (except near the Army), but the Committee have not been able of late to procure these small but necessary Articles, and are now Obligated to call for your aid in this business; would the Ladies consent to exercise a part of their generosity in this way it will be of essential service. The Committee are persuaded no Arguments need be used on this pressing Occasion. Your Humanity for distressed Objects, and known Zeal for our common Cause, will immediately Accomplish all that is wished on this head.

I am, Madam, Your Obed't Hum'le Serv't

(in behalf & by order of the Committee)

ABRA: CLARK.

(MS. Letter to Mrs. Turman in the possession of The Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, San Gabriel, California.)

May 24, 1781. From Princeton, Abraham Clark wrote to Hon. John Stevens, Chairman of the Joint Meeting:

SIR: My long and steady attendance in Congress, for sixteen months past, makes it necessary, for a relaxation of my mind and restoration of my health, that I retire for some time at least, and if agreeable to the legislature I wish it may be to the end of my present Delegation, and that my resignation may be accepted, which this is intended to solicit. ("New Jersey Revolutionary Correspondence," page 279.)

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While Congress was sitting at Baltimore, in February, 1777, Abraham Clark addressed a letter to John Hart, then Speaker of the Assembly of the State of New Jersey at Haddonfield, stating that Congress would probably soon move from Baltimore to Lancaster on account of the high cost of living at Baltimore; and among other things he mentioned that "the price of board without any liquor is a dollar a day, and horse keeping four shillings." From Philadelphia, on October 2, 1781, he wrote to his friend James Caldwell in a similar strain. He says:

"We are now represented by three members. Mr. Elmer came yesterday, but we are all perplexed to know how to live upon our paper pay, which is exchanged here at 2½ for one, with the loss of all the interest, by which we get less than one dollar for twenty shillings." (MS. Collection of the Pennsylvania Historical Society.)

In a letter dated Philadelphia, October 16, 1781, Abraham Clark wrote to Colonel Dayton:

"I expect to leave this town next month free from every public charge, as my Delegation will expire, and my long continuance will excuse if not exclude me from the next choice." (MS. Collection of the Pennsylvania Historical Society.)

But the following year Abraham Clark was again elected to the Continental Congress, in spite of his expressed determination to retire from public life. In a letter dated Philadelphia, July 29, 1782, he wrote to Colonel Dayton:

"Congress is endeavoring to wipe off every unnecessary expense both in the Army and Civil Department—a work attended with great difficulty. The want of money embarrasses every department." (MS. collection of Harvard College Library.)

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November 1, 1782. "The instructions of the Legislature of New Jersey were addressed to the Hon. Elias Boudinot, John Witherspoon, Abraham Clark, Silas Condict, and Jonathan Elmer, esquires, delegates representing this State in the Congress of the United States." (Elliot's Debates, page 9.) At about this date, James Madison—who had taken his seat in the Continental Congress in March, 1780—began to keep a detailed diary of the debates. This detailed report of the debates he continued until June 21, 1783, when the Congress removed from Philadelphia to Princeton. Although this report of the debates of Congress is much condensed on certain topics, it is possible to secure from "The Madison Papers" some idea of Abraham Clark's activity during the period covered by Madison's diary.

Thursday, March 27, 1783. Abraham Clark's remarks were relative to the expenses incurred by the States without the sanction of the Congress. "Mr. Clark exclaimed against the unreasonableness of burdening the Union with all the extraordinary expenditures of particular States, and moved that it might be struck from the report."

Wednesday, April 9, 1783. Mr. Clark wished Congress to define the western limits of the States.

May 20, 1783. Mr. Clark was in favor of Congress moving to discharge all prisoners of war without further delay or red tape.

June 10, 1783. Mr. Clark informed Congress that the delegation from New Jersey, being fettered with instructions, must communicate the plan for the cession of Virginia to their constituents. Furthermore, the "thinness of Congress" was in his opinion a sufficient cause for delay.

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November 6, 1786, the Thirteenth Continental Congress convened at New York, where it sat until the adjournment, October 30, 1787. Abraham Clark was again a member. (During the years 1784 to 1786 he had served as a Representative in the State Legislature of New Jersey.) James Madison, being again a member of the Continental Congress, resumed his diary, or report of the Debates, during February, 1787. On May 2 this diary was discontinued when he left New York to take up his duties as a delegate to the Convention in Philadelphia which framed the Federal Constitution. In "The Madison Papers" are found the following reports:

Tuesday, March 13, 1787. Mr. Clark having lately moved to have the military stores at Springfield removed to some place of greater security, the matter was referred to the Secretary of War. (Only eight States were represented in the Congress.)

March 30, 1787. Abraham Clark acceded to the idea of delay on the subject of the admission of Phineas Bond as British Consul for the Middle States. Mr. Clark said that he had been at first puzzled how to vote; now, however, all hopes of a commercial treaty with Great Britain having vanished, he would vote to take no action.

Wednesday, April 18, 1787. Abraham Clark took an active part in the heated discussions regarding the suspension of the right of the United States to the common use of the Mississippi River below their southern boundary. (Considering the seriousness of the questions involved, and the fact that our decision would inevitably embroil us with Spain, the course of Abraham Clark in pleading the "thinness of Congress" to avoid doing anything in the matter, was a wise one. Only seven States were then present in Congress; the slim attendance no doubt was due to the intention of members to attend the Constitutional Convention soon to meet in Philadelphia.)

ABRAHAM CLARK

February 24, 1787. A letter from Abraham Clark, dated New York, to James Mott, Esq., at Trenton, is in the MS. collection of the New York Public Library. It reads as follows:

Feb'y 24, 1787.

SIR: When I wrote to you I expected the County Collector of Essex had public money in his hands which I would draw as I had purpose; but finding he hath paid all into the Treasury I have no prospect remaining of getting any of him, and as I am at the expense of sending to the Treasury it is necessary that I receive my Account forwarded, otherwise this Expense would be frequently renewed. I hope therefore the bearer will be answered, as I am now at a stand, having spent nearly all the sum now called for, in my attendance at N. York.

I am Sir Your Hum'le Serv't

ABRA CLARK

JAMES MOTT Esq'r.

As showing the curious wanderings of documents, and their survival, it may be noticed in passing that a photostat copy of the first half of the following account against the State of New Jersey was secured from the MS. collection of the New York Public Library for the purpose of reproduction in this book. The latter half (beginning with the words "before me") was secured among other copies of manuscripts from Haverford College, Pennsylvania, also for reproduction in this book. Thus after the lapse of more than a hundred years these two half-sheets of Abraham Clark's receipt and affidavit have been reunited. "The written word endureth."

Account Against the State of New Jersey for \$80.

The State of New Jersey to Abraham Clark.Dr.
1786 To Attending the meeting of Commissioners
at Annapolis in September from the 1st of

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September the time I left home to the 21st
of the same month when I returned, for which
I charge 20 days at 4 dollars pr day.....Eighty dollars

Abraham Clark being duly sworn deposeth and saith that
the above amount is true.

ABRA. CLARK

Sworn the 6th day of March 1787

before me, David Brearly.

I hereby acknowledge that I received of James Mott Esq'r
forty dollars about the 2. day of Septem'r and fifteen dollars
about the 20. day of Septem'r last. for which I gave receipt;
and also received twenty five dollars by an Order I gave in
favour of Jonathan I. Dayton about the 1. day of Septem'r
last, which was accepted & paid by Mr. Mott, making in the
whole the full of the above amount.

ABRA: CLARK

The Convention held at Philadelphia in 1787,
which framed the Federal Constitution, grew out of
the meeting of the Commissioners of several of the
States in the Convention at Annapolis. On May 18,
1787, Abraham Clark was appointed one of the
Commissioners to this Convention at Philadelphia,
to represent his State in another of these epoch-
making bodies. Why he did not actually sign the
Constitution may not be known. Certainly he was
in favor of its adoption. His views regarding it are
expressed in a letter dated New York, July 23, 1788,
addressed to Thomas Sinnickson at Trenton, in
which he says:

"With all these imperfections about it, I nevertheless wished
it to go to the States from Congress just as it did, without any
Censure or Commendation, hoping that in case of a general

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Adoption, the Wisdom of the States would soon amend it in the exceptionable parts; strong fears, however, remained upon my mind until I found the Custom of Recommending amendments with the Adoptions began to prevail. This set my mind at ease. . . . We have been some time in suspense about the event of the New Constitution in this State. . . . I anxiously wish every State may come into the Adoption. . . ." (MS. collection of the Pennsylvania Historical Society.)

November 5, 1787, to October 21, 1788, Abraham Clark took an active and leading part in all the deliberations of the Fourteenth (and last) Continental Congress, then sitting at New York. One of the important motions made by him was the following as set forth in the "Documentary History of the Constitution" (Vol. I, page 161):

On Wednesday, July 2, 1788, in Congress assembled, on motion of Abraham Clark it was ordered that the ratification of the Constitution of the United States transmitted to Congress be referred to a Committee to examine the same and report an act to Congress for putting the said Constitution into operation, in pursuance of the resolutions of the late Federal Convention. The New Jersey delegation, Abraham Clark, Mr. Dayton, and Mr. Elmer, voting "Aye," it passed in the affirmative.

In 1789, Abraham Clark was elected a commissioner to settle the accounts of the State of New Jersey with the United States.

In pursuance of his duties in this connection, on November 15, 1790, a letter written by Abraham Clark, dated Elizabethtown, was addressed to Hon. Jonathan Dayton, Esq'r, requesting information about blankets delivered to the Continental troops, as he desired soon to close the account with the union. (MS. Collection of the J. Pierpont Morgan Library.)

ABRAHAM CLARK

An Act of Congress of March 3, 1791, imposed a duty upon spirits distilled within the United States. There was a strong inclination to disregard an excise imposing duties on domestic distilled liquors, and the question of taxation excited much attention in the Federal and State Conventions called to form and ratify the Constitution of the United States.

In the New York convention a motion was made, but not carried, to prohibit excise on any article grown or manufactured in the United States. (Gale & Seaton's "Annals.") From these debates, and those in the First Congress, it seems that it was generally understood and expected that the right to establish an excise would not be exercised unless in case of urgent necessity. . . . The offenses against the laws which came to be known as the "Whiskey Rebellion" appear to have been confined to a comparatively small section of the country—the north-eastern portion of Washington County, Pennsylvania.

"An Act to provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, to suppress insurrections, and repel invasions," became a law May 2, 1792. That much feeling existed with regard to the excise, would appear from the remarks of Hon. Abraham Clark, of New Jersey, who said: "The motion from the gentleman of New York, would go to call forth the military in case of any opposition to the excise law; so that if an old woman was to strike an excise officer with a broom handle, forsooth, the military is to be called out to suppress an insurrection." The Government, he observed, was in its infancy, and he saw no necessity for supposing that the people would at this early stage oppose the laws. (Gale & Seaton, Second Congress, page 575.)

On Tuesday, October 25, 1791, Abraham Clark presented his credentials as representative of the State of New Jersey in the United States Congress at Philadelphia, and took his seat. This was the beginning of the First Session of the Second Congress.

ABRAHAM CLARK

At the opening of the Second Session of the United States Congress, on Monday, November 5, 1792, Abraham Clark was in attendance, and took his seat.

On Monday, December 2, 1793, at the opening of the Third Congress of the United States, Abraham Clark, having been again elected to represent his State, presented his credentials, took his seat, and remained in active attendance until Monday, May 19, 1794. (Benton's "Debates.")

On September 13, 1794, Abraham Clark died at his home, Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

ABRAHAM CLARK

*A workman that needeth not to
be asbamed, holding a straight
course in the word of truth.*

—Psalms cxi : 3.

*His work is honourable and
glorious; and his righteousness
endureth forever.*

—II Timothy ii : 15.

V

Roll-Call of the Signers

V

Roll-Call of the Signers

THE Declaration of Independence was signed at Philadelphia by fifty-six members of the Second Continental Congress, representing the thirteen Colonies. In the list here given are their names, their occupations, and their ages at the time of signing. The term "country-gentleman" and the term "farmer" are here used in the same sense in which those terms were used in the Revolutionary period. Most of the "country-gentlemen" inherited large estates, and were men of wealth; most of the "farmers" made their livelihood out of the soil.

NEW JERSEY.

Abraham Clark, 50, surveyor, farmer.
 John Hart, 68, farmer.
 Francis Hopkinson, 39, lawyer, judge.
 Richard Stockton, 46, lawyer.
 John Witherspoon, 54, clergyman.

NEW YORK.

William Floyd, 42, farmer.
 Francis Lewis, 63, merchant.
 Philip Livingston, 60, merchant.
 Lewis Morris, 50, country-gentleman.

ROLL-CALL OF THE SIGNERS

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Josiah Bartlett, 47, physician.
Matthew Thornton, 62, physician, farmer.
William Whipple, 46, sailor, merchant.

MASSACHUSETTS.

John Adams, 41, lawyer.
Samuel Adams, 54, merchant.
John Hancock, 39, merchant, capitalist.
Robert Treat Paine, 45, clergyman, lawyer, judge.

CONNECTICUT.

Samuel Huntington, 45, lawyer, judge.
Roger Sherman, 55, shoemaker, lawyer, judge.
William Williams, 45, statesman.
Oliver Wolcott, 50, physician.

RHODE ISLAND.

William Ellery, 49, lawyer.
Elbridge Gerry, 32, merchant.
Stephen Hopkins, 69, farmer, merchant, judge.

DELAWARE.

Thomas McKean, 42, lawyer, judge.
George Read, 43, lawyer, judge.
Caesar Rodney, 48, country-gentleman.

ROLL-CALL OF THE SIGNERS

PENNSYLVANIA.

George Clymer, 37, merchant.
Benjamin Franklin, 70, printer.
Robert Morris, 42, merchant, financier.
John Morton, 52, surveyor.
George Ross, 46, lawyer, judge.
Benjamin Rush, 31, physician.
James Smith, 56, surveyor, lawyer.
George Taylor, 60, iron-master.
James Wilson, 34, lawyer, judge.

MARYLAND.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton, 39, lawyer, country-gentleman.
Samuel Chase, 35, lawyer, judge.
William Paca, 36, lawyer, judge.
Thomas Stone, 33, lawyer.

VIRGINIA.

Carter Braxton, 40, country-gentleman.
Benjamin Harrison, 36, country-gentleman, statesman.
Thomas Jefferson, 33, lawyer, country-gentleman, statesman.
Francis Lightfoot Lee, 42, country-gentleman, statesman.
Richard Henry Lee, 44, soldier, statesman.
Thomas Nelson, Jr., 38, country-gentleman, statesman.
George Wythe, 50, lawyer, judge.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Joseph Hewes, 46, merchant.
William Hooper, 34, lawyer.
John Penn, 35, lawyer.

ROLL-CALL OF THE SIGNERS

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Thomas Heywood, Jr., 30, lawyer, judge.
Thomas Lynch, Jr., 27, lawyer, country-gentleman.
Arthur Middleton, 34, country-gentleman.
Edward Rutledge, 27, lawyer.

GEORGIA.

Button Gwinnett, 44, merchant.
Lyman Hall, 51, physician.
George Walton, 36, lawyer, judge.

*That they may rest from their
labours; and their works do follow
them.*

—Revelations xiv : 13.

Portraits of the Signers

The original of John Trumbull's famous painting, "Signing of the Declaration of Independence," hangs in the gallery of the Wadsworth Atheneum, New Haven, Connecticut. Its size is about twenty by thirty inches. By many art critics it is considered Trumbull's masterpiece, by reason of the excellence of the miniature portraits; each face in the large group of forty-eight earnest men is a portrait study in itself.

The larger painting, called the "Declaration of Independence," which hangs in the rotunda of the Capitol, at Washington, was done by Trumbull from his small original painting to fill the order of Congress. By a joint resolution of February 6, 1817, Congress authorized the President, James Madison, "to employ John Trumbull, of Connecticut, to compose and execute four paintings commemorative of the most important events of the American Revolution."

This large painting for the Capitol was completed some time in 1818. Concerning it, Trumbull wrote in a letter to Thomas Jefferson: "*The picture will contain portraits of at least Fortyseven members—for the faithful resemblance of Thirty-six I am responsible as they were done by myself from the life, being all who survived in the year 1791.—Of the remainder, nine are from pictures done by others: . . .*" And elsewhere the painter wrote about the execution of his work:

PORTRAITS OF THE SIGNERS

"Mr. Adams was painted in London; Mr. Jefferson in Paris; Mr. Hancock and Samuel Adams in Boston . . . The room is copied from that in which Congress held their sessions at the time."

The picture is referred to by John Quincy Adams in his diary under date of September 1, 1818. He wrote as follows: . . . *"The picture is immeasurably below the dignity of the subject. . . . I think the old small picture far superior to this large new one."*

This seems an unnecessarily unkind criticism from a man whose father was given the position of honor standing in the centre of the group of distinguished men, and whose portrait the artist travelled all the way to London to paint.

Charles Henry Hart, writing some eighty-seven years later, in 1905, said: *"No picture of an American historical event is better known than John Trumbull's 'Declaration of Independence.' The crude colossal painting covers considerable wall space, twelve by eighteen feet, in the rotunda of the Capitol at Washington, while the beautifully painted small original canvas, only twenty by thirty inches, adorns the Trumbull Gallery in New Haven, and may readily be accepted as the artist's masterpiece, with its exquisite miniature portraits. . . . The great value of this picture is as a human document, preserving as it does the portraits of forty-eight persons connected with the most momentous event in the world's history next to Magna Charta."*

The "key" to the painting (says John H. Hazelton) was prepared by Trumbull himself. As we have Trumbull's statement that all the portraits of those who still were living in 1791 were from life, we may presume that Abraham Clark's portrait is authentic.



Trumbull's Painting of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence

John Hancock of Massachusetts is seated at the table on the right; the tall figure on the other side of the table, presenting the Declaration to Hancock, is that of Thomas Jefferson; Benjamin Franklin stands to the right of Jefferson. John Adams of Massachusetts is standing in the centre of the picture at the end of the table. At the left of his elbow, seated in front of the dark doorway, are Francis Hopkinson and Abraham Clark of New Jersey. In the group of three, standing on the left of the centre, are Stephen Hopkins (a Quaker, wearing his hat); William Ellery; and George Clymer. Seated at the table on the extreme left of the picture, with a quill pen in his hand, is Benjamin Harrison; and seated, next is Richard Henry Lee; both of Virginia. In the group of three standing immediately on the right of Hancock's seated figure, are George Read of Delaware, John Dickinson of Pennsylvania, Edward Rutledge of South Carolina. Seated next, on the extreme right of the picture, are Thomas McKean of Delaware and Philip Livingston of New York. Standing, with right hand on a closed book, is Charles Thompson, of Pennsylvania, the Secretary of Congress; not a Signer.

PORTRAITS OF THE SIGNERS

An interesting painting on the same subject, but not so well known, is "The Congress Voting Independence," begun by Robert Edge Pine (1730-1788) and completed by Edward Savage. It hangs in the rooms of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia.

Washington, in his "Diary" April 28, 1785, wrote: "*To Dinner Mr. Pine, a pretty eminent Portrait & Historical Painter, arrived in order to take my picture from the life & to plan it in the Historical pieces he was about to draw. This gentleman stands in good estimation as a Painter in England;—comes recommended to me from Colo. Fairfax—Mr. Morris—Gov. Dickenson—Mr. Hopkinson & others.*"

Pine's portrait of Francis Hopkinson is well-known. He also painted Robert Morris; Alexander Hamilton; several members of the Carroll family; and four portraits of General Washington. Before coming to America he painted "Garrick seated at a Table reading Macbeth," which hangs in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

It is thought that Trumbull received the suggestion for his painting "Signing of the Declaration of Independence" from the earlier composition of Robert Edge Pine. In addition to the life-like grouping of the figures of the men, Pine reproduced the room in which the Declaration was signed with the fidelity of an architectural drawing.

The portrait of Abraham Clark now hanging in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, was painted by James R. Lambdin, from the Trumbull original. Lambdin, a pupil of Thomas Sully, was a distinguished portrait painter of his day, notable for the

PORTRAITS OF THE SIGNERS

fidelity of his likenesses. In Trumbull's painting, the figures of Abraham Clark and Francis Hopkinson are seated under the arch of the doorway in the rear of the hall, in the centre of the canvas. From this original miniature portrait made by Trumbull, James R. Lambdin painted the portrait of Abraham Clark which is reproduced as a frontispiece in this volume.

VI

Ballad of Princeton Battle

PRINCETON BATTLE

NOTE

After the Battle of Trenton General Washington took position on the high ridge south of Assunpink Creek, and there, on the morning of January 2, 1777, he had concentrated the Continental forces. The British outpost was at Eight Mile Run, about a mile north of Maidenhead. That night, in the darkness, General Washington, leaving the campfires burning, withdrew his forces, and by a rapid march around the left flank of the enemy was prepared to surprise their rear guard at Princeton the following day. The Battle of Princeton was fought and won on the morning of January 3, 1777.

Three regiments of British infantry, having orders to march from Princeton to Trenton, crossed Stony Brook at Worth's Mill bridge, unaware of the proximity of the Continental army. Washington divined that the British would use the upper bridge. He sent Hugh Mercer there, with some four hundred men, to destroy the bridge. The British commander saw Mercer's advance, and hastened to reach the top of Millett's Hill. Mercer reached it first. Volleys were exchanged.

"Captain Daniel Neil of New Jersey, commanding the Eastern Company of Artillery [Thomas Clark, lieutenant-captain], brought two of his guns into position and threw some shot into the ranks of the enemy's right wing, with deadly execution. Still, the bayonets of the British and their terrible charge could not be withstood by the Americans, who had only their old rifles and muskets, few of which had the bayonet." (Stryker's "Battles of Trenton and Princeton.") Mercer, Fleming, Neil, and Haslet fell. Captain Thomas Clark succeeded to the command of Captain Neil.

Washington, hearing the firing from the lower road, hurried forward a battery with reinforcements to support the retreating New Jersey State Troops. Mawhood's British regulars then gave way; they fled across Stony Brook.

While the advantage was with the American forces, there still remained two British regiments of foot in strong positions. Washington brought up some artillery, and began to outflank the enemy, but before he completed the movement, the British fled. A detachment of Hessians took refuge in the college, and barricaded the doors, but a few cannon shot made them speedily surrender.

The American victories at Trenton, Princeton, and Assunpink constituted a turning-point in the war.

On June 9, 1922, the American victory was celebrated by unveiling at Princeton a monument by the sculptor, Frederick MacMonnies. It represents Washington, mounted, urging his men on to the attack at the bridge, while Liberty seizes the standard from the hand of a fallen soldier. At the dedication of the monument, the spirited poem printed here was read. It was written for the occasion by Dr. Henry van Dyke, himself a Princeton man, and it is here printed with his permission.

VI

Ballad of Princeton Battle

By HENRY VAN DYKE

*Along Assunpink's woody bank we left our
campfires bright,
While like a fox with padded feet we stole
away by night;
Cornwallis watched his Trenton trap,
And drained his glass, and took his nap;
But the ragged troops of Washington out-
flanked him in the night—
Up and away for Princeton,
By a secret road to Princeton—
We dragged our guns with muffled wheels to
win another fight.*

PRINCETON BATTLE

*The icy trail was hard as iron, our footprints
marked it red;
Our frosty breath went up like smoke to the
winking stars o'erhead;
By Bear Swamp and by Miry Run,
Our muskets weighed at least a ton;
We shivered, till o'er Stony Brook we saw
that sun rise red;
Weary we tramped to Princeton;
But all of us at Princeton
Would follow our chief through thick and thin
till the last of us was dead.*

*We looked beyond the upper bridge, across
the swollen stream,
And there along the king's highway we saw
the Redcoats gleam;
'Twas Mawhood's regiment marching down
To finish us off at Trenton Town!
"Go cut the bridge" and Mercer's men
crept up along the stream.
But the British turned towards Princeton,
Came bravely back for Princeton;
And all the rest of that dim hour was wilder
than a dream.*

PRINCETON BATTLE

*They rushed thro' Will Clark's orchard,
among the naked trees;
With horse and foot they hammered hard;
their bullets sang like bees;
And Mercer fell, and Haslet fell;
The bayonets cut us up like bell;
The chain shot mowed a bloody path beneath
the twisted trees.
It looked all black for Princeton,
We lost our hopes of Princeton;
We wavered, and we broke and fled as leaves
before the breeze.*

*Then down the hill from Tom Clark's house
rode Washington aflame
With holy ire; through smoke and fire, like
mighty Mars he came.
"Come on, my men, parade with me,
We'll make the braggart Redcoats flee"—
And up the hill, against the guns, rode
Washington aflame.
He turned the tide at Princeton;
The land was saved at Princeton;
And they who fought, and they who fell, won
liberty and fame.*

PRINCETON BATTLE

*Men praise our chief for weighty words, for
counsel calm and high,
For prudence and enduring will, for cool,
farseeing eye;
One thing he had all else above—
Courage that caught the soldier's love,
And made the soldier's loyal heart in danger's
hour beat high.
We saw it clear at Princeton;
'Twas written here at Princeton:*

THE MEN WHO MAKE A NATION GREAT ARE
MEN WHO DARE TO DIE.

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